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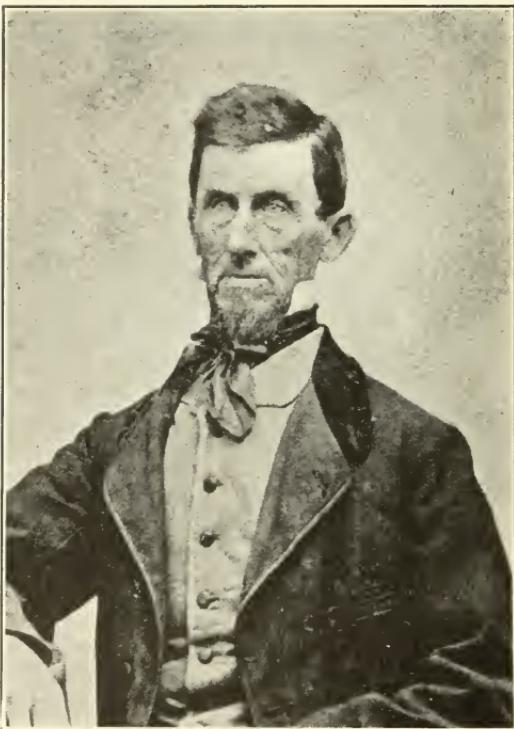
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BENJAMIN PERLEY ADAMS

THE POST-OFFICE IN TOPSFIELD  
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE POSTMASTERS.

BY HENRY FOLLANSBEE LONG.

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Until 1639 there is no trace of a postal system in Massachusetts. In the Massachusetts General Court records, under date of November 5, 1639, appears the following:

"For preventing the miscarriage of letters . . . it is ordered that notice bee given, that Richard Fairbanks, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters, which are brought from beyond the Seas, or are to be sent thither . . . are to be brought unto him and he is to take care, that they bee delivered, or sent according to their directions and he is allowed for every such letter 1d. and must answer all miscarriages through his owne neglect in this kind: provided that no man shall bee compelled to bring his letters thither except hee please."

The following quotation from Parton's "Life of Franklin," presents a good idea of the postal communication that existed in the Colony before the establishment of a regular post-office. "In the American Colonies, the postal service began thus; letters arriving from beyond the sea were usually delivered on board the ship into the hands of the persons to whom they were addressed; every family sending a member on board for the purpose of receiving letters. Letters not called for were taken by the captain to a coffee house—near

the wharf, where they lay spread out on a table, waiting the coming of their owners. Persons coming from adjacent settlements called at the coffee house and carried away not only their own letters but all the letters belonging to the people in the neighborhood, which they either delivered in person, or deposited at the house of the minister or magistrate, or some relative of the individual to whom the letter was addressed. Hence, the custom grew of depositing at the ship coffeehouse, letters written in the town and destined to a place in the interior, as well as letters brought from the country and directed to an inhabitant of the town. As the settlements grew in number and magnitude, it became usual to leave letters directed to one of them at the inn most frequented by the inhabitants of that settlement. Thus, several years before there was a post-office or a post-rider in the colonies, a rude, slow, unsafe, but neighborly system of letter delivery had sprung up; and long after the establishment of a post-office, this neighborly method continued to be the main dependence of the people for the transportation of letters for short distances."

A letter written in 1652, by Samuel Symonds of Ipswich, to John Winthrop Jr. at Pequot, says, "I cannot say but its besides my intentions that I write not more frequently to you; I can only plead this for my excuse (soe farr as it will goe) . . . and the uncertainty when and how to convey letters." The writers of that day were dependent upon individual bearers, and pressed neighbors, relatives, merchants, sea captains, any and everyone whom they could reach, into the service. Indians were often used as messengers. Roger Williams writing to John Winthrop, at some time before 1640 speaks of word "by this bearer Mequash whome (being a Pequot himselfe) I commended for a guide in the Pequot expedition."

The first monthly mail established between New York and Boston in 1672, was advertised as follows:—"Those that be disposed to send letters, to bring them to the Secretarys office, where in a locked box they shall be preserved till the messenger calls for them; all persons payng the post before the bagg be sealed up." Thirty years later this mail was made fortnightly. The General Court of Massachusetts un-

der date of January 6, 1673, reports as follows; "Whereas the publick occasions of the country doe frequently require that messengers be sent post, and, as yet, no stated allowance setled in such cases, it is ordered by this Court & the authority thereof, that from henceforth every person so sent upon the publicke service of the country shallbe allowed by the Treasurer after the rate of three pence a mile to the place to which he is sent, in money, as full sattisfaction for the ex-pense of horse and man; and no innholder shall take of any such messenger or others travayling upon publicke service more than two shillings pr bushell for oates, and fower pence for hay, day and night." In 1677, on account of loss of letters, several merchants of Boston, petitioned for a person to take charge of letters. In 1680, John Hayward was appointed Post-master of the whole colony, and in 1689, Richard Wilkins was appointed "to receive all letters, and to deliver out the same, and to receive on each one Penny." In 1775, the Congress of the Confederation, having assumed the practical direction of affairs, appointed a committee to devise a system of Post-office communication, which committee made a report on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, recommending a plan, which on the same day was adopted, and Benjamin Franklin was unanimously appointed Post-master General, at a salary of \$1,000 per annum.

As the early mails for Topsfield, were delivered through the Salem post-office, it may be of interest to read the following, taken from a journal kept by one Hugh Finlay (who, in 1773, "was surveying Pest offices and Post roads") in regard to Edward Norris, who was at that time postmaster at Salem. The entry is under date of October 11, 1773, and reads as follows:—"His books were not in good order, he follows the form, but they are dirty and not brought up regularly; he understands the business of a deputy. The office is kept in a small mean looking place. He teaches writing. He has no commission to act, he took charge of the office at the death of his father; he reports that every other day the stage coach goes for Boston, the drivers take many letters, so that but few are forwarded by Post to or from his office. If an information were lodged (but an informer would get tar'd and feather'd) no jury wou'd find the fact, it

is deem'd necessary to hinder all acts of Parliament from taking effect in America. They are they say to be governed by laws of their own framing and no other."

The first mention of a "post-rider" for Topsfield, is in the Essex Gazette,—under date of July 19, 1774, and is as follows: "Robert Davis Now rides as Carrier from Salem to Haverhill. He sets off from S. and E. Hall's Printing office at nine o'clock every Tuesday morning, and will carry letters, Packets, and mail Bundles at a reasonable Rate."

No doubt this was a means of creating some excitement in the town, when that first postman drew up at the tavern door, to refresh himself, as he undoubtedly did with some good home brewed beer, his "portmantles" (portmanteaus) filled with letters and small portable goods, the letters which he had brought being carried to the tavern table to be well thumbed until called for. In the Salem Gazette, under date of May 31, 1785, we find that "Nathan Peabody, Haverhill Post Rider, Informs the Publick, that he sets out from Boston for Haverhill on Thursdays, and from Haverhill to Salem on Mondays, and returns on Tuesdays. Those gentlemen who may please to entrust him with the conveyance of letters, etc., may depend upon their being delivered with punctuality and on very reasonable terms." That these riders did not carry all the letters is shown from the numerous items in the Salem newspaper, advertising certain letters as being at the post-office for Topsfield people. The Gazette, under date of April 1, 1796, advertises a letter for "Dr. John Merriam of Topsfield," and Samuel Smith writing February 2, 1782, from Boston, says that "he writes this letter in great haste as Mr. Perkins is going to Topsfield."

October 20, 1801, "A friend" from Topsfield, writes to the "Salem Impartial Register" that, "In the County of Essex, at the present time, the mail traverses only two sides of it, —that is, on the sea board, and on its northern boundary. All the central parts of this populous country, must communicate with distant places, through one or other of these lines of post from which they are about equally distant. The mail from Boston passes through Wilmington and Andover to Haverhill—and on the sea coast, through Salem and Ipswich to Newburyport, thus describing two lines which embrace

the body of the county between them . . . . There is already an excellent road which intersects the county into nearly two equal parts,—leaving the present post line at Salem, and rejoining it at Haverhill. This road possesses great capabilities. The greatly increased, and daily increasing travel on this road, from Canada, Cohoss and all the back country, through Haverhill to the sea coast,—and from Boston and Salem thro' Danvers, Topsfield, Boxford, and Bradford to Haverhill, Exeter and Portsmouth, as well as the back country, entitles it to the consideration of the Post Master General as a post road." In the Salem Gazette, under date of June 29, 1802, it is stated that "The want of the means of intercourse between this town and the northern parts of the county of Essex, has long been felt, and we are happy to see, in the Post Master General's proposals for carrying the mails, that one is to pass every Friday from this town to Haverhill and back, through Danvers, Topsfield, Boxford and Bradford. This it may be hoped will be a prelude to the improvements of the roads to the northward of us."

The demand for a post-office in Topsfield began when this mail road was put into operation. In a diary kept by Rev. William Bentley, of Salem, he records under date of September 16, 1801, "A new Tavern has been opened on the road from Andover in Boxford & Dr. Cleveland in Topsfield has converted the mansion house of Porter into a very convenient tavern, below the meeting house in Topsfield." In this tavern probably was located the first post-office in Topsfield, for Nehemiah Cleaveland was appointed January 1, 1803, the first postmaster.

In the Salem Register of January 7, 1805, is the following notice concerning the mails:—"Post Office Salem Mass. Winter arrangements of the Mails. Haverhill and Topsfield,—arrive every Thursday at 10 o'clock A. M. Depart same day at 2 o'clock P. M. Letters must be left one quarter of an hour previous to the period of departure." In the same paper, under date of June 15, 1807, is printed the following:—"Summer course of the mails, from Salem, Mass. Topsfield and Haverhill mails arrive every Saturday, at 11 o'clock A. M. Depart at 2 o'clock P. M. on the same day."

Dr. Cleaveland has been described\* as "a man of no common stamp. He came of the staunchest Puritan stock, his great-grandfather, Moses Cleaveland, having emigrated in his prime from Ipswich, in England, to Eastern Massachusetts and left a numerous and distinguished progeny. Dr. Cleaveland's father died on his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday, in 1799, having been for more than half a century the pastor of Chebacco Parish in this county — a chaplain in both the French and Revolutionary wars, present with the army at Ticonderoga in 1758, at Louisburg in 1759, at the siege of Boston in 1775, and on the Connecticut shore in 1776. Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland was a man of large stature and of erect, dignified and commanding aspect. A tall stripling of sixteen, he attended his father upon his service as Chaplain during the siege of Boston, and in 1777 enlisted in the army as a common soldier. The stress of war deprived him of the collegiate training to which he had looked forward fondly, and kept him, during his minority, either in the camp or at the plow. Having subsequently mastered the science of medicine he began practice at Topsfield in 1783, purchasing the stock of a successful predecessor, as well as his library of just two volumes. He was soon after complimented with a commission as Justice of the Peace, and began to interest himself in the public affairs of town and county. He was chosen, through Federalist support, to the State Senate in 1811, and lost his seat the next year, under the operation of that famous system known as the "Gerrymander." From 1815 to 1819 he was re-elected and then withdrew. In 1814 he was a Sessions Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas. From 1820 to 1822 he was an Associate Justice of the Court of Sessions for the county and in 1823 became its Chief Justice. This station he filled with ability and firmness until 1828, when he retired from public business, receiving at the same time from Harvard College, the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. With an iron constitution and health, up to his fiftieth year, untouched by disease, Dr. Cleaveland never laid aside the practice of his profession however interrupted, but had extended it to all neighboring towns, and up to his death in February, 1837, at the age of 77, he continued to serve, as their trusted physician, the

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\*Essex Institute Hist. Colls. Vol. XI, p. 65.

community with which he had for fifty years identified himself by rare activity in every enterprise of moment. As a neighbor he was sought for his willing and judicious counsel, while his public career was marked throughout by good judgment, sound sense and solid worth." Dr. A. L. Peirson of Salem, writing of Dr. Cleaveland in the "Medical and Surgical Journal," notes that—"he was a much respected member of the Essex South District Medical Society. No man amongst us set a better example of professional integrity and honor. The few who could boast of his friendship, will long remember with pleasure the virtuous and kind-hearted old man, whose influence was uniformly and efficiently exerted in support of good order and the true advancement of society." Dr. Cleaveland was twice married and left five children.

Cyrus Cummings who was born July 30, 1772, followed Dr. Cleaveland as postmaster, receiving his appointment August 13, 1813. He probably kept the post-office in the Topsfield Hotel on the Newburyport and Boston Turnpike, as he was landlord of that famous tavern. The post-office may have been removed to the tavern on the hill at an earlier date, for beginning with 1818, the Eastern Stage Company carried the mails and stopped at the Topsfield Hotel. Mr. Cummings followed the sea in his earlier years. He married May 25, 1809, Susanna, daughter of Moses and Susanna Wildes, and had two daughters, one of whom, Susan, married Rev. Martin Moore of Boston, for many years editor of "The Congregationalist." He was prominent in town affairs, at various times holding all the principal offices within the gift of the town. He appears to be the first postmaster to receive any pay from the government for his services, for in 1816, it is recorded that he was paid \$4.82 for the year. He died April 26, 1827. Upon his death, a son of Dr. Cleaveland was appointed, William N. Cleveland, whose appointment was dated May 10, 1827.

William Neal Cleaveland, born April 6, 1798, was the son of Dr. Nehemiah Cleveland by his second wife, Experience. In addition to the town school, he attended for a while, the Bradford and Atkinson Academies. He taught school for two or three winters, and then took charge of his

father's farm. On May 25, 1829, he was married to Harriet Perley of Boxford. Very soon after his marriage, he removed to Killingly, Conn., where, with a young partner of some experience, he built a small mill for the spinning and weaving of cotton. He afterwards returned to Essex County, leasing a mill in Newbury for the manufacture of cotton cloth. This did not prove a paying venture, and in 1842, he returned to his early home. After the construction of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, he was made a Director of the Company, and also held for several years, the office of Treasurer. In 1856, he removed to East Boxford, where he died February 10, 1872. Mr. Cleaveland served but two years as postmaster, and was succeeded by his father, whose second term of service began May 5, 1829. Dr. Cleaveland was at this time President of the Eastern Stage Company, which ran its stages over the "turnpike." For the year 1829, Dr. Cleaveland received \$17.42 for his services. He held the office until just previous to his death, which occurred February 26, 1837.

On February 14, 1837, John Rea was appointed postmaster. Mr. Rea was the son of Israel and Lois (Lamson) Rea, and for some years was the proprietor of the "Rea Tavern" which was burned down in October, 1836. In the Salem Gazette of October 17, 1836, the fire is described and it is stated that "The Loss to Mr. Rea is Total, and we hope a liberal public will remember him in his hour of calamity and need. His whole substance is consumed in a night, and all his prospects for the support of himself and family blasted, as it were in an instant. He has the sympathies of his townsmen, and we hope they and others of their abundance, will give him substantial proofs by their deeds, as well as by their words." As John Rea was taxed as an "innholder" in 1837, it is reasonable to suppose, that after his fire he conducted the "Topsfield Hotel" on the "turnpike." Possibly, following out the idea expressed in the foregoing article from the Gazette, he was assisted by the people, in obtaining the postmastership, and without doubt carried on the clerical work, during the illness of his predecessor. September 5, 1837, he was married to Angeline Sawyer, at Ipswich. About 1838, he and his wife moved to the British Provinces.

At a town meeting held March 14, 1838, the second article on the warrant reads as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to request the Post Master General of the United States to remove the Post Office of this Town from its present location to the village & pass any vote or votes relating to the subject the Town may see fit." It was moved to pass over this article, but the motion was lost, 42 voting in favor, and 51 against. The following resolutions were then read:—

"Whereas—We have, as citizens, been instructed to believe that the establishment of the "Post office Dept," is for the advantage and convenience of the whole community equally throughout the United States, without respect to persons or places.

Whereas—It is believed by us, that regard being had only to the representations, of interested Post masters,—Mail-Contractors, and selfish individuals is not calculated to promote the best public good, but on the contrary greatly to militate against it.

Whereas—It is believed, by us that the present location of the Post Office in this town is at an inconvenient distance from the business part of the Inhabitants, it being, three fourths of a mile, directly wide from the (business part of the) village which has increased both in buildings and business to a great extent since the establishment of the Post office in this town.

Whereas It is believed that from repeated failures of the memorials, that have been sent to the Post Master General for a removal of the office, that misrepresentations have been made to him, by interested persons, to sustain the office at its present location.

Whereas—It was the expressed opinion of the late Post Master of this town, who held the office for a great number of years and who was well acquainted with the wants of the people—that its removal would better accomodate the whole town. Therefore

Resolved: That the Post Master General be earnestly and respectfully again memorialized to remove the Post Office in this town, from its present location into the central part of the village of Topsfield.

Resolved, also, that if, the Post Master General decline to remove the office, at the request of the Town, that the Congress of the United States be directly memorialized for that purpose. Whereupon

Moved—That this preamble & these resolves be adopted by this Town and recorded by the Clerk and that a Committee of three persons, be chosen by ballot for the purpose of carrying the same into effect."

R. A. Merriam, A. Pingree, and Richard Phillips Jr. were the committee appointed.

The records contain no further mention of this desire for a change of location, and it may be assumed that the town carried its point and the office was removed. The fact that the Eastern Stage Company, which had carried the mail since 1818, went out of existence in 1838, leads us to believe more surely that the office was removed at this time. John Rea served as postmaster but a few months after this meeting, for on August 25, 1838, Edward Hood received his appointment. He, there is reason to believe, kept the office in the store of Samuel Gould, which was a portion of the house now occupied by Wm. Pitman Gould and Mary E. Gould. For the year of 1839, he was paid for his labors, the sum of \$87.76, more than double the sum paid to John Rea, the year before. He was the son of Samuel and Lydia Hood, and was born May 1, 1799. He was a farmer by occupation and died August 21, 1852, with consumption.

April 17, 1841, William Esty Kimball, received the appointment as postmaster. He was the son of Benjamin and Deborah Kimball, and was born in Topsfield, January 22, 1805. In his earlier years he carried on a blacksmithing business in a shop located on the site now occupied by the house of Benjamin Lane. He afterwards removed the shop, and built a store, where he engaged in the grocery and East India goods business, in partnership with Andrew Gould. He was one of the prime movers in forming the Topsfield Warren Blues, being chairman of the "standing committee." He died in Danvers, November 6, 1895. He was postmaster for only a short time and on November 3, 1848, Richard Phillips Jr. was appointed.

Richard Phillips occupied and owned the land now belonging to Augustus W. Smith. A shop located near the present stable, was used as a shoe shop, and as a grocery store. William Briggs Reed kept the grocery store as early as 1838. Very likely the post office was removed to this store, but there is no direct evidence as to the location of the office at this time. In the Salem Gazette of January 21, 1876, appears the following obituary:—"Mr. Richard Phillips one of the most prominent and highly respected citizens of Topsfield, died on Tuesday, last. He was born in that town April 16, 1808, and has always been greatly interested in temperance and political affairs. He was an active agent of the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society, and an earnest advocate at all times of moral suasion. He was an intimate friend of the late Vice-President Wilson, of Mr. Garrison, and others of the old Free Soil Party, and in him the poor and oppressed at all times found a warm and generous friend. Mr. Phillips took great interest in the affairs of the town, and his advice was eagerly sought and freely given to all. Mr. Phillips was a remarkable man, few equalling him in the adaptation of means to ends, he maintaining that suitable arrangement was necessary in every phase of life. Through this principle, coupled with an indomitable energy, he was eminently successful in every undertaking, whether of political, social or religious design." Mr. Phillips served as postmaster until July 29, 1846, when Benjamin C. Orne, was appointed.

Benjamin Crosby Orne was born in Wolfborough, N. H., March 11, 1800. He was a farmer and shoemaker by occupation. He kept the post office in three different locations. Probably the first place, was in the store of John Merriam and Ariel H. Gould, which was located in a portion of the house now owned and occupied by William Clerk, but which at that time was on land now occupied by Otto E. Lake. The office was also located in the store of Benjamin P. Adams, and also in the store of William E. Kimball. Mr. Orne was the first to introduce into the office, the post-office box. When he took the postmastership, all letters were exhibited in a kind of frame. Strips of wood being covered with small pieces of tape, into which the corners of the letters

were placed, where they remained until called for by their owners. Mr. Orne held the office a little more than three years. He died, of asthma, March 23, 1869, aged 59 years.

Benjamin Perley Adams, who held the office for the longest term of years, was appointed postmaster on December 26, 1849. He located his office in his own store, now occupied by C. P. Poor & Co. Here, for twenty-six years, he faithfully served as postmaster. He was born in New Rowley, Sept. 5, 1806, and was the son of Benjamin and Lois (Perley) Adams. He was graduated from the Merrimack Academy about 1830 and in 1831 came to Topsfield from Georgetown. Until about 1835, he was clerk or landlord at the hotel on the turnpike. July 9, 1833, he married Mary Ann, the daughter of Cyrus Cummings, who kept the "Topsfield Hotel" until his death in 1827, and who was postmaster from 1813 to 1827. Mr. Adams afterwards went into the grocery store of N. P. and Frederick Perley which stood on what is now Joseph B. Poor's property, and served them in the capacity of clerk until 1841 when he purchased the store.

Many stories are told of Mr. Adams' term of office. On a Sunday, he would fill his pockets with letters, to be handed to the owners, as he saw them in church. Mr. Adams must have been a pioneer on the lines recently fostered by the Topsfield Improvement Society, for at a town meeting held May 26, 1871, it was moved "That the thanks of the Town be voted to Benj. P. Adams, Esq., for the improving and beautifying the avenue leading to the academy building and turning a spot of land into a garden of flowers, which once produced only a deadly malaria; for improving and adorning a spot which was formerly unsightly to behold, into a pleasant garden, which is now alike pleasing to the eye and conducive to the health and morals of the community; also for erecting a barrier upon the bridge, to protect the school children from harm and accident in their going to and from school. Also, moved, that a copy of this vote be presented to Mr. Adams as a token of the appreciation in which the Town holds Mr. Adams as a good citizen and a lover of public improvements." In the windows at the right of the southerly door leading into the store of C. P. Poor & Co. formerly were displayed the letters addressed to those people

who did not rent a post-office box. This enabled anyone to see the letters without entering the store. The story is told of a dog owned by Mr. Adams, bearing the name of "Ginger," which may be of interest. This dog always went to the train with the man for the mail bags, lying on the opposite side of the street for some few minutes before the men started, and never failing to take up his station there before train time. On Sundays, he seemed to realize that no mail came, for he never crossed the street. The day the post-office was moved from the store, after the death of Mr. Adams, "Ginger," tired of waiting for the man to go after the mail, came across from his post, and ran into the store barking and whining, and endeavoring with all the powers at his command, to tell the messenger that he should get the mail bags. Not being able to interest anyone, he slunk away, and remained secreted for the remainder of that day. Next day as usual he took up his station, and waited for the mail man he had followed for so many years. No one came, so out of patience, he rushed down to the station, to see, perhaps, if he had missed the messenger. It is related that as he found none of his masters there, he slunk home, and never after went to the station, or lai'd down at his old post.

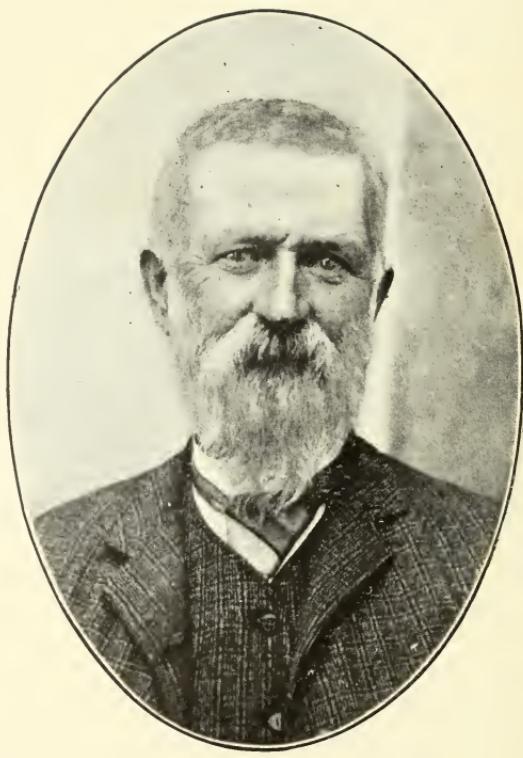
In connection with the location of the post-office, it may be interesting to know what a visitor to Topsfield has to say under date of Jan. 28, 1887—"We were rather glad to observe, during our visit, that the old B. P. Adams grocery has a little of the old-time look under the present ownership and occupancy of Mr. Poor. The partition is down which used to divide the grocery end from the dry goods department, and the little corner where the Topsfield branch of the United States mail service business was transacted, is now utilized for the proprietor's desk. The destruction of the partition puts aside the old seat upon which used to sit a decrepit old man or two, who, sometimes leaning upon a cane, would, in the forenoon hours, enjoy the heat of the neighboring stove while listening to the village talk as it came and went, and thus passed so much of their days, while on the down-hill road of life."

In May 1841, Mr. Adams married his second wife, Abby L. Stimpson, of Salem. Under date of July 14, 1875, the Salem Gazette records: "The death of Mr. Benj. P. Adams,

the p. m. after a lingering illness of many months, deprives Topsfield of one of its most influential men, both in the public and the private walks of this little town." The notice goes on to relate that, "The postmastership will be filled doubtless, by his son, a young man esteemed and respected by all, who is abundantly able to fill the office, having had the sole charge of it during his father's illness and assisting him in his labors the past eight years." The newspaper, also records under date of July 21, 1875, that "an effort is being made, since the death of Mr. B. P. Adams, postmaster, to secure the removal of the office from the old place." The item relates further that "Mr. Adam's son who will continue his father's business, started with a paper in his own behalf last Tuesday forenoon, and before 9 at night, had 100 names. Last week he had about 150, as we hear. Without disparagement to anybody else, it seems to be the general desire of the citizens that the office remain in the old place where the people have been well served, and where the younger Adams, for many months past, has been the active man."

In October, 1875, a new post-office was opened, across the street from the old office, in the building owned by John Bailey, by the new postmaster whose appointment was dated July 30, 1875. The Salem Gazette of November 3, 1875, informs us that "The new post-office fixed up by Mr. Bailey in his greatly improved building is laid out upon a scale ample enough for a town four or five times as large, with boxes enough to supply a large part of the voting population, and an array of lock-boxes very far out of the proportion provided for the accommodation of the city of Salem." The post-office thus spoken off contained approximately three hundred regular boxes and fifty-three lock boxes. This identical arrangement is still in use. In place of the old method of showing letters for people not owning boxes, was introduced a wheel or revolving cylinder on which the letters were held by means of brass clips. The observer could turn the wheel at will and inspect the letters which were protected by a glass partition. The wheel was used for a number of years, or until the present system of writing the names upon sheets of paper was brought into use. In that part of the building occupied of late by George A. Gould, the office remained until





SALMON DUTTON HOOD.

1884 when it was removed to its present location, in the drug store of Benjamin P. Edwards.

John Bailey was the son of John and Nancy (Doe) Bailey, and was born in Parsonsfield, Maine, June 21, 1830. He received his education in the district school, and at the age of nineteen taught school at Biddeford Pool, Maine. He came to Topsfield in 1863, and began the manufacture of shoes which he successfully carried on for many years. June 17, 1866, he was married to Sarah Jane Gould. He died in Topsfield, January 28, 1902, after a short illness. Mr. Bailey was postmaster for eleven years, but Joseph Bailey Poor was acting postmaster most of the term. Mr. Poor carried on a grocery and dry goods business in the store occupied as a post-office, and attended to the duties of a postmaster in connection with his regular business.

Salmon D. Hood was appointed postmaster March 25, 1886. He served until Jan. 23, 1890, when Benjamin P. Edwards was appointed. With the advent of the second Cleveland administration, Mr. Hood was again appointed postmaster, his commission bearing date of June 18, 1894. Salmon Dutton Hood was born in Topsfield, Feb. 17, 1830, in the Luke Averill house at "The Colleges," his parents being Capt. David and Pheobe (Foster) Hood. He was educated in the public schools of the town, and at the Atkinson Academy. Later he entered the law office of Col. Charles Kimball of Salem, where he studied probate law. On March 31, 1850 he was married by the Rev. Anson McLeod to Perthena Calista Pearson of Albany, Vt., who was born there Jan. 28, 1833. Their banns were the last that were published in Topsfield under the old puritanical law. She died Dec. 6, 1907. Mr. Hood was first commissioned a Justice of the Peace by Governor Andrew and has ever since held a commission. He was elected assessor and selectman in 1872, which offices he held for over a quarter of a century. He also, for several years, was superintendent of schools. In 1874 he was elected Representative to the General Court and was postmaster during both of President Cleveland's administrations. A life member of the Essex Agricultural Society, he has always been interested in agriculture. He is a member of the Topsfield Historical Society and has been Vice-President and a Trustee of the Danvers Savings Bank for many

years. He has performed the duties and lived the life of a country "Squire" since youthful days and also is well known throughout Essex County as an auctioneer. He has always lived on the ancestral acres beside Hood's Pond, which have been in the family since 1713.

Benjamin Punchard Edwards, appointed postmaster Jan. 23, 1890, was born in Salem, Jan. 7, 1853. His parents were John Brooks and Amelia (Millett) Edwards. He came to Topsfield, August 13, 1877, having purchased the druggist business previously carried on by Charles S. Wiggin. On September 10, 1877, he moved to his present location, where he has carried on the drug business to the present time. October 10, 1877, he married Mary Eva Pierce of Salem, Mass. John Bailey, the postmaster, desiring better accommodations, removed the post-office to its present location in the fall of 1884. Mr. Edwards was at once appointed assistant to the postmaster, and has served as acting-postmaster or postmaster since that date.

Salem Gazette, under date of Feb. 7, 1890, prints the following: "Mr. B. P. Edwards has been appointed postmaster of Topsfield, to succeed S. D. Hood, Esq. the democratic appointee who received the office under the Cleveland administration. Mr. Edwards has been acting-postmaster through all of Mr. Hood's term. The office has been "farmed out" for thirteen years, the nominal postmaster having little or nothing to do with the active duties of the office." Mr. Edwards was again appointed postmaster December 27, 1897, and has served as postmaster since that date. In testimony of Mr. Edwards' faithful and efficient service as postmaster, and for having no complaints filed against him, he received from John Wanamaker, Postmaster-general, a certificate of merit. From the more recent Postmaster-general's he has received certificates for "the excellent condition" in which the office is managed. The office is at present gradually growing from a fourth-class to a third-class office. There are five mails in and five mails out of the town daily. During the month of December, 1907, the total weight of all mails amounted to 654 pounds. In the month of July, 1807, the weight of letters passing through the office amounted to 129 1-2 pounds.

TOPSFIELD POSTMASTERS.

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NAMES.	DATES OF APPOINTMENT.
Nehemiah Cleaveland,	Jan. 1, 1803
Cyrus Cummings,	Aug. 13, 1813
William Neale Cleaveland,	May 10, 1827
Nehemiah Cleaveland,	May 5, 1829
John Rea,	Feb. 14, 1837
Edward Hood,	Aug. 25, 1838
William Estey Kimball,	April 17, 1841
Richard Phillips Jr.,	Nov. 3, 1841
Benjamin Crosby Orne,	July 29, 1846
Benjamin Perley Adams,	Dec. 26, 1849
John Bailey,	July 30, 1875
Salmon Dutton Hood,	March 25, 1886
Benjamin Punchard Edwards,	Jan. 23, 1890
Salmon Dutton Hood,	June 18, 1894
Benjamin Punchard Edwards,	Dec. 27, 1897

## THE BURSTING OF THE DAM AT THE BOXFORD IRON WORKS.

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In the fall of 1725, a dam across a stream at Woodstock, Conn., gave way and caused considerable damage. An account appears in the Boston News Letter. After describing in some detail the damage wrought, the printer continues as follows:

"The foregoing Account demonstrates, that Water is a bad master; and brings to remembrance the Vanity and Vexation of Spirit, with which the Owners of the Iron Works at Topsfield were exercised. They made a strong Dam to dispose of the Water for their Service: But it pass'd over the firm land beside the Dam, which was not discerned, or not seasonably guarded against; Presently after, it insinuated itself under the Turff, and then it rushed with such Violence as to throw down the Trees, and conquer all opposition; it quickly forced a large & deep Channel. And the Owners were put to the sore travel of making a second Dam, or else the first, tho' standing, had stood to no purpose."

Boston News Letter, Oct. 7. 1725.

## TOPSFIELD IN THE WITCHCRAFT DELUSION.

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BY MRS. ABBIE PETERSON TOWNE AND  
MISS MARIETTA CLARK.

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Topsfield's connection with the witchcraft delusion in Salem Village (Danvers) is of much importance historically and has a greater claim upon the notice of the historian of that period than generally has been conceded. To be sure, Upham in his monumental work and John Fiske in his Lowell lecture upon the subject, have recognized that bitter feelings had long existed over land boundary disputes between the town of Topsfield and the Putnam family of Salem Village, but the facts have not been sufficiently emphasized. In all newly settled communities there is more or less difficulty in defining and agreeing upon the divisional bounds, but the differences existing between "the Village men" and "the Ipswich men" over their boundaries were rendered more exasperating because of a clerical error in recording the first grant made by the General Court in 1639 and the depth of feeling aroused at that time can scarcely be imagined at the present day.

In March, 1636, the General Court passed an order that the towns of Salem, Ipswich, and Newbury, each should extend inland six miles and this six miles extent should be measured from the meeting-house in the town.

November 5, 1639, the General Court adopted the following order: "Whereas the inhabitants of Salem have agreed to plant a village neare the ryver w'ch runs to Ipswich, it is ordered, that all the land near theire bounds, betwene Salem & the said ryver, not belonging to any other towne or person, by any former grant, shall belong to the said village." It afterwards appeared, not only by vote of the General Court in 1643, but also by the testimony of Increase Norwell, the secretary, that inhabitance of Ipswich and inhabitance of Salem at the same time petitioned in 1639 for the priviledge to set up a village near the Ipswich river, but through the error of the recording secretary, Increase Norwell, he had entered the grant upon the Court records as made to Salem men only. Norwell also complicated the matter further by writing in the margin beside the order: "Land graunted to Salem Village, now Wenham."

Following the action of the Court in 1639, John Putnam of Salem and his sons occupied a large tract of land extending to the Ipswich river, while on the northerly side of the river several families from Ipswich and Lynn set up a small settlement and as early as 1641, Rev. William Knight was "dispencing the word of God unto them." John Putnam's house formerly stood near what is now Charles H. Preston's home at Hathorne, in Danvers, and his holdings of land were very large.

In 1659, the boundary line between Salem Village and Topsfield seems to have been definitely established and agreed upon for the first time. Thomas Putnam and Nathaniel Putnam with Joseph Hutchinson, were the committee representing the claims of Salem. But this agreement as to boundary did not settle the difficulties of the recently established town of Topsfield, for disputes over bounds were constantly breaking out between the Topsfield men and the Putnams, the latter claiming that the grant of the General Court in 1639 gave them the land extending to the river and in consequence they refused to pay taxes to Topsfield. They also occupied and cut timber upon land to which Topsfield claimed proprietorship.

In 1680, the town of Topsfield appointed a committee to "sue for bounds," the members of the committee to have

half the land they recovered or to be paid double wages. This was to encourage them to undertake the danger of personal risk of counter suit. In due course suit was brought by the Putnams against John Baker, one of the committee, and suit and counter suit followed until "a grate dele of monye and time hath ben Spent at y<sup>e</sup> Law . . . in a Likely way of Destroyeing and being destroyed one by another," as appears by a petition of the Putnams to the General Court in 1698 (Mass. Archives, Vol. 113, page 180). The General Court heard the claims of the two parties and decided in favor of Topsfield. Such, too, had been the decision of the lower court in 1680, for the committee appointed by the town: Baker, Towne, and How, recovered by law the land claimed by Topsfield.

Throughout this suit and the several others that followed, the names of How, Towne, Estey, Baker, and Wildes frequently appear, either as members of a committee representing Topsfield or as witnesses before the court, while on the Salem side we have the Putnams. In 1686, the Putnams and Nathaniel Ingersoll, acting as "trustees or agents" for Salem Village, brought suit against John Curtis of Topsfield, for occupying and improving land belonging to Salem Village. Curtis owned property on the south side of the river now occupied by Richard Wheatland and Baxter P. Pike and in his declaration to the court (Essex Court Files, Vol. 46, leaf 75) he stated the claims of Topsfield so well that he easily won his case and the Putnams were obliged to pay 54 shillings court charges.

The Putnams were strong-willed men, of high temper and seemingly eager for controversy and even personal conflict. In a suit brought in 1686, Isaac Easty sen., Isaac Easty jr., John Towne, and Joseph Towne jr. testified that they were in the woods within Topsfield bounds on the south side of the river and "saw Capt. John Putnam of Salem Farms or Village & his sons & som of his cozins cutting down tymber within Topisfield bounds & on Topisfield mens properties & seuerall of Topisfield men forewarned Capt. John Putnam from Cutting Tymber on their land; the sd Capt. Putnam replied, I haue faled the tymber yt is here cutt down on my orders & I will Keep Cutting & Careing away from This Land

till next March, & ye sd Puttman being asked, what by violence, his answer, ay by violence & further sd you may sue me you know where I dwell & then did his company falle on." (Essex Court Files, Vol. 47, leaf 43.) The Court again decided in favor of the Topsfield men which of course only served to make the Putnams more bitter.

We all know how easily children absorb the feelings of their elders and usually to an exaggerated extent. To them, the people hated by their fathers are capable of the most terrible crimes, therefore it is not surprising that among those first accused of witchcraft we find Rebecca Nurse of Salem Village, daughter of William Towne of Topsfield, and sister and aunt to the Townes who had "recovered" the so-called Putnam land. To the excited imagination of these children, Rebecca Nurse was not the dear, saintly woman that she was to all others, but an enemy, and one capable of that blackest of all crimes, witchcraft. Sarah Cloyse, her sister, had married, first, Edmund Bridges of Ipswich and second, Peter Cloyse, who was born in 1639. She was a neighbor of her sister Rebecca, and had joined the Village church in 1690, being then about forty-eight years of age. She is described as a person of very nervous temperament and exceedingly sensitive. She was greatly upset by the proceedings against her sister and did not wish to attend meeting the following Sunday, but as it was communion Sunday it was thought best that she should go. The nature of the sermon and the allusions to her sister Rebecca were such that she broke down and hastened from the meeting-house. Unfortunately the wind was strong and slammed the door. On the 8th of April a warrant was issued for her arrest. She was tried in the usual way but told John Indian, who was testifying against her, that he was a "grievious liar," and was so over-come by the horror of it all that she fainted. Later, while in prison, she joined with her sister Mary Estey in a remarkable petition to the judges. She was condemned but the general jail delivery took place before a time for her execution was set and so she escaped.

The next Topsfield person to be arrested was Abigail Hobbs which took place on April 19, 1692. Two days later, her father and mother, William and Deliverance Hobbs, also

were arrested. William Hobbs came to Salem Village from Lynn in 1660 and bought 80 acres of land from William Robinson of Salem. The cellar of the house in which he lived may still be seen on the left of Nichols street in Danvers, while going toward East street, about half-way between the corner of the Topsfield road and East street. The last of his descendants removed to Maine and it is said that none of them now are living. He appears to have been a good man and respected by his neighbors, but he was unfortunate in having a daughter, who, judging from the depositions, must have been either exceptionally daring in evil doing or partially insane for the neighbors testified that for nearly two years she had told of meeting the Devil, and of remaining alone in the woods all night, and when asked if she were not afraid, said she was not for she had sold herself to the Devil, body and soul. She seems to have been in the habit of conducting herself in an "unseemly way" when she visited the neighbor's houses, and tried to shame her mother by her foolish behavior. During her examination she confessed her compact with the Devil and described the images he brought to her and the instruction he gave as to the manner in which they should be used. She also described the meeting of witches in Mr. Parris' pasture and also told of the red bread and wine used in that unholy sacrament. It is said that a colony of spade-foot frogs formerly existed in the Parris pasture. These frogs make a noise that may be described as diabolical, and if one approaches however softly they instantly disappear. It has been suggested that this awful and unaccountable noise may have led to the belief that the witches held their meetings in this place. Of the later history of this unfortunate Hobbs girl nothing now appears. There are absolutely no traditions of these unfortunates for even the people of only two generations ago refused to talk of the witchcraft delusion.

William Hobbs in his examination showed himself to be a manly, straightforward man and although his daughter and his wife both confessed, he still insisted on his own innocence. He was condemned however and remained in prison until December, when he was bailed by his neighbors John Nichols and Joseph Towne, who gave bond in the sum of two hun-

dred pounds for his appearance in January. He was kept away from that session of the court and the fine was paid, but at the next session of the court in May, the fine was remitted and he was cleared by proclamation. Of Deliverance, his wife, the story is sad and distressing. She confessed herself a witch and gave very minute details of the meetings in Mr. Parris' pasture, telling who were there and accusing Sarah Wilds of urging her to sign the Devil's book. She also said that Sarah Wilds was one of those who distributed the red bread. Ephraim Wilds said he thought that her desire to incriminate his mother arose from the fact that he was constable of Topsfield and had been obliged to arrest her. Our imagination shrinks from the picture of what these confessing witches must have had to face when the excitement had abated and people realized that they had saved their lives at the expense of their neighbors, or, as every one then believed that witches really existed, was it be possible that the community really believed that they told the truth about themselves, and that their tales about innocent persons were really a part of an awful compact.

Very few persons to-day realize how universal was this belief in witchcraft. These accused persons knew that they were innocent but they honestly believed that the crime was a real one. As late as 1830, an old lady in the south part of Topsfield was believed to be a witch and many stories were told of the tricks she played on her neighbors. One of these will bear repeating. There were two owners of the farm on which she lived and the relations between the two families were not of the pleasantest. One day the men of the other family were teaming hay from the meadow back of the house (the meadows have long been known as the "Sticky Meadows" and well deserve the name) and the heavily loaded wagon became "mired." The men at once said that old lady Foster had bewitched it and to get even with the witch they chained the wagon wheels, the effect being to choke the witch to death unless some one gave her something to drink. This would have happened if the witch in question had not run into her neighbors and asked for a drink of sweet cider, which relieved her and so saved her life.

The other people arrested at this time, in whom we are interested, were Nehemiah Abbot, jr., Mary, the wife of Isaac Easty, Sarah, the wife of John Wilds, all of Topsfield, and Edward Bishop and his wife Sarah, of Salem Village. Mrs. Bishop was the daughter of John Wilds of Topsfield and with her husband was a member of the church in Topsfield in 1681, but in 1690 they were regularly dismissed to the church in Salem Village where they were then living. Their name still survives in the name of the meadows east of the Newburyport turnpike to Danvers, which have always been called "the Bishop Meadows" and as a child, the writer used to hear of "Bishop's dam." This dam was on Nichols' brook just as it crosses North street and the home of the Bishop's was near this dam on the east of the road and also on the easterly side of the brook. This location is about half-way between the Topsfield church and the Village church and it will readily be seen that their sympathies would be with the Topsfield people in any difference of opinion. At the time of their arrest, Edward Bishop was about 44 years old while his wife was three years younger. They had twelve children. Their property confiscated at that time consisted of household goods valued at ten pounds, six cows, twenty-four swine, and forty-six sheep. At that time the lean-to house, with its back to the meadows, faced toward the south, while the brook ran by the westerly end. We may almost picture the barns and the outbuildings and the neighbors dropping in from time to time to repeat the latest news or to borrow coals with which to start a neglected fire. Now, there is nothing to mark the spot; nothing remains of this life but a nearly filled cellar.

Edward and Sarah Bishop escaped from prison and death and later in life they removed to Rehoboth, Mass. where they kept an inn.

Of Nehemiah Abbot very little is known. In the warrant for his arrest he is described as "weaver." He lived in Ipswich, near the Topsfield line, and must have been a near neighbor of the Hows for many of the How deeds, in describing bounds, have some mention of Abbot's land. On May 24, 1686 he was made deacon of the Topsfield church. He died in 1707. In almost a hundred witchcraft examinations he

was the only person dismissed. The first part of his examination is like all the others, but when Mary Walcott was asked, "Is this the man?" *i. e.*, the man who tormented her, she was not able to say, and Mercy Lewis answered to the same question, "It is not the man." They all said that the man they saw had a bunch over his eye and finally Abbot was sent out while others were examined and when he was brought back again, the court room was so crowded, and even the windows so full of people, that the girls could not see him plainly, and he was ordered out of doors while the girls went out and talked quietly with him in the presence of the Judges. They said that he looked like the man but the apparition had a wen over the eye and so Abbot was dismissed. In a note in the records he is described as a "hilly-faced man" and stood shaded by his own hair, so that some of the bystanders thought he was very much like the man described by the affected persons.

John Wilds came to Ipswich in 1635 and probably removed to Topsfield at the time of his marriage with Priscilla Gould, which occurred about 1645. He settled not far from what is now the Joseph Andrews place. His first wife died in April, 1663, and in November, he married Sarah Averill, daughter of William Averill. John Wilds had eight children. His daughter Sarah, by his first wife, married Edward Bishop while his son Ephraim, the constable of Topsfield in 1692, was the son of Sarah Averill, his second wife. After the marriage of John Wilds and Sarah Averill, there had been war between them and John Gould and Mary Reddington the brother and sister of Priscilla, the first wife. It has been supposed that the ill feeling was caused by the hasty second marriage, but that does not seem likely, for in those days eight months was a long time for a widower to remain single. But whatever the cause the effect was the same and cost Sarah Wilds her life. Four or five years before the epidemic of witchcraft, Mary Reddington told her neighbors that Sarah Wilds was a witch. The story spread and we may imagine how it grew as it passed from mouth to mouth till it finally became of such proportions that John Wilds threatened to prosecute John Reddington for his wife's action. "Brother" Averill also went to Mrs. Reddington, but to him she denied

that she had ever believed harm of his sister. That some had believed is shown by the deposition of Ephraim Wilds. In the quaint phraseology of the time he said: "Four or five years ago there was some likelyhood of my having one of Goody Simonds' daughters as the maid told me her father and mother were willing I should have her, but after some time I had some hint that Goody Simonds had said that my mother had done her wrong." Then he goes on to say that he took Mark How with him and went to Mrs. Simonds and asked her what she meant by saying such things of his mother. She told him she never knew any harm of his mother except what was told her by Mrs. Reddington. Justly angry he left the house "and went no more." The maid has our sympathy.

Sarah Wilds was considered a witch before 1692 and both her own and her husband's family were active in the boundary dispute, therefore it is most natural that she should be one of those accused by the Village girls. Many of the principal witnesses against her were in some way connected with the old dispute. Ephraim, her son, believed that the testimony of Deliverence Hobbs against his mother was from a spirit of revenge because as constable of Topsfield he had been obliged to arrest her. During Mrs. Wilds trial, which was like the others in every respect, she bore herself with great fortitude and dignity, but she was condemned and taken to Boston prison, and after two months delay, during which her husband and son made every effort to save her, she was executed on Gallows hill in Salem.

Mary Easty was the daughter of William and Joanna (Blessing) Towne and was baptized Aug. 24, 1634, in St. Nicholas church, Yarmouth, Eng. In 1640, William Towne was living in Salem and in 1651 he removed to Topsfield. At this time Mary was seventeen years old. Not long after she married Isaac Easty, a Salem cooper, who came to Topsfield to live. Their eldest child was probably born in Topsfield about 1656. Isaac Easty bought land of the Towne family and settled on what is now known as "The Agricultural farm." In March, 1673, he bought land south of the "great fresh river." This land was bounded by land of Mr. Endicott and land of farmer Porter. Isaac Easty jr. was married in 1689 and in

1692 he was living on this farm south of the river which afterwards passed into the hands of B. W. Crowningshield and is now owned by Thomas W. Peirce.

Mary Easty, like her sister Rebecca Nurse, was a victim of the bitter feeling aroused by the boundary dispute, but in her case there was no other irritant. She must have been a central figure in the dispute. Not only were all her Towne relatives actively engaged, but for four years her husband had been a selectman of Topsfield. She was arrested April 21st, in the usual way and committed to prison, but on May 18th she was released. Two days after, the girls were seized with terrible convulsions and accused Mary Easty again. These convulsions increased in violence until, in order to save the girls from a horrible death, a warrant was procured and Marshal Herrick rode to Topsfield to secure her. After midnight she was aroused from sleep, chained and taken from her home and family and placed in the prison in Salem.

Aaron Easty, grandson of Mary, and son of Isaac, junior, was born in 1698, in the house on the hill. He married Esther Richards who lived to be one hundred years old and died in Topsfield in 1805. She told her children that Mary Easty was taken to prison, the second time, from the house on hill, the sheriff coming for her in the night. This was stated to the writer by a grandchild of Esther Richards.

Her husband, while speaking of it nearly twenty years afterwards, called it an "hellish molestation." She was tried a second time and condemned to death. On the way to the gallows she was met by her family and friends and of this meeting and her parting words, Calef says, "her words of farewell were as serious, distinct, and affectionate as well could be expressed."

Mary Easty was the most remarkable figure in the history of that terrible time. She seems to have been the only person, man or woman, gentle or simple, who kept her head and knew exactly the thing to do. Women in her station at that time were uneducated. Most of them could not write their names. Yet, we find her in the midst of this great excitement, while in prison and on trial for her life, presenting a petition to the Judges which, as a legal document, equals any thing written by the leading lawyers of the day. It seems

reasonable to conclude that to this document she owed her release. After her sentence and while in prison awaiting death, she presented a second petition to the Judges. This petition stands by itself and is probably the most remarkable petition in the English language. Read it carefully, sentence by sentence, keeping in mind a clear picture of the conditions, physical and mental, under which it was written. We measure the characters of historical personages by those of their contemporaries and at this time only one person can be compared with Mary Easty in clear-sighted wisdom and he was a man of learning and experience in public affairs, a Justice himself and with no personal considerations to influence his feelings or his judgment.

She is called "Mary Easty, the self-forgetful." She was more than this for she spent her last days in an earnest effort to save others from her own terrible fate. She was executed Sept. 22, 1692 on Gallows hill in Salem.

Elizabeth How was the daughter of William Jackson of Rowley. She married James How, son of the pioneer, and lived in that part of Ipswich now known as Linebrook, on the road leading north from the cemetery. Nehemiah Abbot and the Perleys were her near neighbors. If the case of Mary Easty was remarkable from an intellectual standpoint, Elizabeth How's is the most interesting of any to a student of the times. Here we have detailed accounts given under oath by people of assured position and of the average intelligence, some of them prominent in town affairs, and some of them at least without, so far as we know, any personal spite to gratify. The incidents related happened ten years before the outbreak in 1692 and represent the feelings of the community in its normal condition. That Elizabeth How was not executed for witchcraft at that time was due to the fact that no Rev. Samuel Parris lived in the immediate vicinity. That the neighborhood in which these events took place was also perfectly normal is amply proven by the record of similar happenings in the cultured circles of Cambridge and Boston. The execution of a woman in Boston in 1688 for bewitching the Goodwin children may be cited.

The depositions of twenty-four persons are on record. These include those of the ministers, relations, neighbors, men who worked for the Hows, and a man who boarded in the family. It would seem as if all the relations of life were represented. The deposition of her husband's father, over ninety years old, is a beautiful picture of a good woman. He describes her as a dutiful daughter; a careful, loving, obedient wife, tenderly caring for her husband in his blindness.

Simon Chapman and Joseph Moulton both testify to the beauty of her character and one of them admits that, having heard the stories about her, he had watched her carefully and had even talked with her about these stories. Both of these men had been members of her household for weeks at a time, and agree in saying, they found her just in her dealings, faithful to her promises, conducting herself always as become a good christian. In her talk with them and with others, about the accusations, she said she had nothing but pity for these people and prayed that this burden laid upon her might be sanctified by God for her spiritual good, that she might profit by her affliction as coming from the hand of God. Nine of the twenty-four depositions testify to her goodness and strength of character. Seven others, by the four Perleys, Mrs. Cummings, and the two ministers, Rev. Phillips and Rev. Parsons of Rowley, relate to the illness of Hannah Perley.

There had been the usual trouble between the Perleys and Hows about land and bounds, and the relations between the two families were somewhat strained. Hannah, the ten-year old daughter of Samuel Perley, was taken strangely ill. She had convulsions and serious fits and during these fits she talked wildly of what she saw and suffered. Her parents consulted all the available doctors who pronounced it a case of witchcraft, just as occurred ten years later at Salem Village. The poor child grew worse and worse and finally pined away and died. She appeared to love Mrs. How dearly, yet while in these fits she cried out that it was Mrs. How who caused all her suffering. If she fell into the open fire during her convulsions she said it was Mrs. How who pulled her in. Sometimes when a neighbor was visiting her mother, she

would cry out that Mrs. How was going about on the ceiling; that she had disappeared through a crack; that she saw Mrs. How go in and out of the oven and then she would fall into one of her fits. This happened in other houses as well as at home. Her mother rebuked her at first but ended in believing the child.

Rev. Samuel Phillips and Rev. Edward Parsons, ministers of Rowley, were called to see the child. Mrs. How was there at the same time whether by accident or by invitation we do not know. The ministers agree in saying that the girl did not mention Mrs. How during her fit and that when she recovered consciousness Mrs. How took her by the hand asking her if she ever hurt her in any way. The child replied, that she never had, and if in her fits she had said so, "she knew not what she said." Dr. Phillips adds that while he was walking in the yard with the child afterwards her brother called to her from the window, "say Goodwife How is a witch, say goody How is a witch." He rebuked the youth and said it is no wonder that the child in her fits accused Mrs. How if, when out of them, she was constantly reminded that it was she who was the cause of her suffering.

About this time Mrs. How wished to join the church at Ipswich. The Ipswich people objected on the ground that she was a witch and the Perleys were summoned to tell their story. Feeling ran high and all sorts of strange tales were repeated at the church meeting and elsewhere. Nehemiah Abbot testified that something always happened to his cattle if he had any difference with Mrs. How. Twice she had wished his ox choaked and both times that ox was choaked with a turnip in his throat "in a little while afterwards." Jacob Foster said that his father was one of those prominent in refusing her entrance to the Ipswich church, and very shortly he could not find his mare. He sought her diligently for several days and when he found her she was in a miserable condition having evidently been terribly abused. It was one of the current superstitions that witches rode their neighbors mares with a red-hot bridle and this story of the abused mare is very common. There were three in this very case. Isaac Cummings, his son Isaac, his wife and son-in-law Thomas Andrews of Boxford, make long and interesting deposi-

tions about a mare belonging to Isaac, senior, that had been terribly abused the night after they had refused to lend her to one of the How daughters. Not only does the mare die but the Cummings barn barely escapes being burned.

A man by the name of Lane had agreed to get out some posts and rails for James How. He had hired Samuel Perleys' son to help him in the work but when he asked Mr. How to come and take possession of them, Mrs. How said, if you had done them alone they would have been all right, but with Samuel Perley's son to help you they won't be. When Mr. How examined the rails he lifted them by one end and so many of them broke that as many as twenty new ones had to be made, "and the rails appeared to be stought and strong."

There are many more depositions of this sort but one of the most interesting is quite different. This is made by Joseph Safford, a man about sixty years old, and relates to his wife. The story of the suffering of the Perley child had aroused great fear of Mrs. How in the mind of Mrs. Safford. But one day Mrs. How and her husband came to see her and talked the matter over. After this "she was taken beyond all reason and all persuason" to take the part of the accused woman. Her husband tried to prevent Mrs. Safford from going to the church meeting, but some of the neighbors persuaded her to go, telling her she would not have to say anything. After the meeting, which refused to admit Mrs. How to the Ipswich church, Mrs. Safford took her by the hand and told her that "though she was condemned before man she was justified before God." Joseph Safford then deposed that the next Sabbath his son was taken strangely ill and the following Sunday, his wife was taken with a "raveing frenzy," raving for two or three hours that Mrs. How ought to be admitted to the church, that she was a saint, and much more of like nature. She then fell into a stupor for a short time and when she aroused, she exclaimed "I was mistaken." This she repeated until they asked her what she was mistaken about. She said she had been mistaken in Mrs. How, she had thought her a saint and she was a witch and had bewitched her and her son and they would never be well till Mrs. How was admitted to the church. From this time on

the poor woman was tormented. She saw Mrs. How's apparition and raved about her continually and had all the sufferings of other bewitched persons.

One deposition relates to the time of her trial. She asked her brother-in-law John How, to take her to the hearing at Salem Village. He refused, saying "if it were for any charge but witchcraft I would gladly take you." She persuaded him until finally he promised to go, if he was not obliged to go elsewhere, but it chanced that he had to go to Ipswich on business and on his return, while standing at the gate talking with a neighbor, a sow that was nursing her litter a short distance away, sprang up with a terrible squeal and fell dead. He deposed, "I did not suspect any one save my sister How."

Is it strange with such evidence, added to that of the "afflicted girls," that she was committed to trial, condemned and executed? The unvarying sweetness of her disposition, the blindness of her husband, the quiet courage and unfaltering devotion of her two daughters, make Elizabeth How's story the most appealing in its sadness of any in this sad group.

In 1702, twenty-one of the relatives and friends of the sufferers petitioned to the General Court that the names of those who were executed might be cleared of odium, so that none of their sorrowing relatives, nor their property, might suffer reproach upon that account. A year later the ministers of Essex County ask the General Court to consider the petition of the "relatives of the sufferers" because "there was not as is supposed sufficient evidence to prove the guilt of such a crime." But it was not until 1711, that the General Court passed an Act to clear the names of those condemned on "insufficient evidence," and at the same time appropriated sufficient money to repay the relatives and heirs of the imprisoned for money expended in the support of the prisoners and for their expense of removal from one prison to another.

In examining these later petitions, one is impressed with the anxiety of the relatives that the names of those who were executed should be cleared from the stain of a terrible crime. The belief in witchcraft yet existed but those executed in 1692 were innocent—were convicted upon "insufficient evi-

dence." Isaac Easty in his petition in 1703, says of his wife, "it was a sin she did hate with all her heart." If Mary Easty did not believe in witchcraft how could she hate it with all her heart? The other petitioning relatives also seem to have most at heart, the removal of the stain put upon good names and good reputations through "insufficient evidence." The crime was real but the evidence was not sufficient.

## WITCHCRAFT RECORDS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM THE ORIGINAL RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE CLERK OF COURTS FOR ESSEX COUNTY; IN THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES AT THE STATE HOUSE, BOSTON; AND IN VOLUMES OF WITCHCRAFT PAPERS AT THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOSTON, AND AT THE ESSEX INSTITUTE, SALEM.

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BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

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### WARRANT V. REBECCA NURSE.

To the Marshall of Essex. or his deputie.

There Being complaint this day made (before vs by Edward Putnam and Jonathan Putnam yeomen both of Salem Village, against Rebecca Nurse the wife of franc<sup>e</sup>s Nurce of Salem Village for vehement suspition of haueing committed Sundry acts of witchcraft and thereby haueing donne much hurt and Injury to the Bodys of Ann Putnam the wife of Thomas Putnam of Salem Village and Ann Putnam y<sup>e</sup> daughter of said Thomas Putnam and Abigail Williams &c.

You are therefore in theire Majesties names hereby required to apprehend and bring before vs Rebecca Nurce the wife of ffranc<sup>e</sup> Nurce of Salem Village to Morrow aboute Eight of y<sup>e</sup> clock in the aforesnoon at the house of Leut Nath-

NOTE.—The following papers, when not otherwise indicated, are in the custody of the Clerk of Essex County Courts, at Salem.

aniell Ingersoll in Salem Village in order to her examination Relateing to y<sup>e</sup> abouesd premises and hereof you are not to faile Salem. March the 23<sup>d</sup> 169<sup>1</sup>

p vs JOHN HATHORNE      JONATHAN CORWIN      } Assists.

March 24<sup>th</sup> 169<sup>1</sup>. I have apprehended y<sup>e</sup> body of Rebeca Nurse and brought her to y<sup>e</sup> house of Leut. Nath: Ingarsal where shee is in Custody

p<sup>r</sup> GEORGE HERRICK Marshall of Essex.

#### INDICTMENT V. REBECCA NURSE NO. 1.

Anno Regni Regis et Reginee et Mariee nunc Anglice & Quarto.

Essex. ss.

The Juro<sup>rs</sup> for our Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King and Queen p<sup>e</sup>sents that Rebecca Nurse the wife of ffrancis Nurse se of Salem Village, in the county of Essex. husb. the four and twentieth day of March in the flourth year, of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady William and Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotland ffrance and Ireland King and Queen defend<sup>rs</sup> of the ffaith &c. and divers other days and times as well before as after certaine detestable arts called Witchcraft and Sorceries wickedly and ffellowiously hath vsed practised and exercised at and within the Township of Salem, in the County of Essex aforesaid, in upon and ag<sup>t</sup> one Ann Putnam Jun<sup>r\*</sup> of Salem Village afores'd in the County afores'd single-woman, by w<sup>ch</sup> said wicked arts the said Ann Putnam Jun<sup>r</sup> the s'd four and twentieth day of March in the fourth year above s'd and Divers other days and times as well before as after and is hurt, tortured afflicted consumed Pined wasted and tormented ag<sup>t</sup> the Peace of our said Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King & Queen and ag<sup>t</sup> the fforme of the statute in that case made and provided.

Witnesses.

Ann Putnam Jun<sup>r</sup>.  
Abigail Williams.

Mary Walcott  
Elizabeth Hubbard.

\*There are three other indictments in the same language as this; one each for Mary Walcott, Elizabeth Hubbard, and Abigail Williams.

## ENDORSEMENT.

Memorand<sup>m</sup>.

In this Trayall are Twenty Papers, besides this Judgment, and there were in this tryall as well as other Tryalls of y<sup>e</sup> same nature seuerall evidences viva voce which were not written and so I can give no copies of them, some ffor and some against y<sup>e</sup> parties some of y<sup>e</sup> confessions did also mention this and other persons in their seuerall declarations which being premised and considered y<sup>e</sup> sd 20 papers herewith fil'd. is y<sup>e</sup> whole Tryall

Attest.

STEPH. SEWALL, Cler

Copy of y<sup>e</sup> above wrote on y<sup>e</sup> Judgment w<sup>ch</sup> I gave out to y<sup>e</sup> Nurses.

Bill Avara John Rucke fforman in the nam of the Rest.

## SUMMONS VS. REBECCA NURSE.

William and Mary by y<sup>e</sup> Grace of God of England &c.

To Abigail Williams Ann Putnam Mercy Lewi[s] Elizabeth Hubbard, Mary Walcott, Ann Putnam sen<sup>r</sup>. Susanna Sheldon, uill comand that they and every of them all excuses set aside appear before theire Maj'ties Justices of Court of Oyer and Terminer Holden this present Thursday being 2<sup>d</sup> June. at eight of y<sup>e</sup> clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning to Testifie y<sup>e</sup> truth of what they know, vpon certain Endictments Exhibited at our sd Court on behalfe of our Soverigne agt. Rebecka Nurse here of fail not at your perill. and make return.

Stephen Sewall, cler.

To y<sup>e</sup> Constable of Salem.

## OFFICERS RETURN.

I have summoned the within written persons.  
by me John Putnam of Salem Constable.

## EXAMINATION OF REBECCA NURSE.

The Examination of Rebeckah Nurse at Salem Village 24.  
Mar. 169<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>.

M<sup>r</sup> Harthorn. Wat do you say (speaking to one afflicted) have you seen this woman hurt you.

yes, she beat me this morning.

Abigail. have you been hurt by this woman?

Yes.

Ann Putnam in a grevous fit cryed out that she hurt her.

Goody Nurse: here are two: An: Putnam the child and Abigail Williams, complains of your hurting them What do you say to it

N. I can say before my Eternal Father I am innocent and God will clear my innocency

Here is never a one in the Assembly but desires it. but if you be Guilty Pray God discover you.

Then Hen: Kenney rose up to speak.

Goodm, Kenney what do you say,

Then he entered his complaint and farther said that since this Nurse came into the house he was seized twice with an amas'd condition.

Here are not only these but here is y<sup>e</sup> wife of Mr Tho Putnam who accuseth you by creditable information and that both of tempting her to iniquity and of greatly hurting her.

N. I am innocent and clear, and have not been able to get out of doors these 8. or 9. dayes.

Mr. Putnam give in what you have to say.

Then Mr Edward Putnam gave in his relate.

Is this true Goody Nurse.

I never afflicted no child no never in my life.

You see these accuse you. is it true.

No.

Are you an innocent person ralating to this witchcraft

Here Tho: Putnams wife cryed out Did you not bring the Black man with you, did you not bid me tempt God and dye. How oft have you eat and drunck your own damnation What do you say to them

Oh Lord, help me, and spread out her hands and the afflicted were greevously vexed

Do you see what a solemn condition these are in? when your hands are loose the persons are afflicted

Then Mary Walcot, (who often heretofore said she had seen her but never could say or did say that she either bit or

pincht her, or hurt her) and also Elis Hubbard. under the like circumstances both openly accused her of hurting them.

Here are then 2 grown persons now accuse you what say you? Do you not see these afflicted persons, and hear them accuse you

The Lord knows: I have not hurt them: I am an innocent person

It is very awfall for all to see these agonies and you an old professor, thus charged with contracting with the devil by the effects of it, and yet to see you stand with dry eyes when there are so many whet.

You do not know my heart.

You would do well if you are Guilty to confess give Glory to God.

I am as clear as the child unborn.

What uncertainty there may be in apparitions I know not yet this with me strikes hard upon you, that you are at this very present, charged with familiar spirits this is your bodily person they speak to: they say now they see these familiar spirits come to your bodily person, now what do you say to that.

I have none. Sir.

If you have confess. and give Glory to God I pray God clear you, if you be innocent, and if you be Guilty discover you And therefore give me an upright answer: have you any familiarty with these spirits?

No I have none but with God alone.

How came you sick for there is an odd discourse of that in the mouths of many.

I am sick at my stomach.

Have you no wounds.

I have not but old age.

You do Know whether you are Guilty and have familiarity with the devil, and now when you are here present, to see such a thing as these testify a black man whispering in your ear and birds about you, what do you say to it.

It is all false. I am clear.

Possibly you may apprehend you are no witch but have you not been led aside by temptations that way.

I have not.

What a sad thing it is that a church member here and now another of Salem, should be thus accused and charged

Mr<sup>s</sup> Pope fell into a grievous fit and cryed out a sad thing sure enough. And then many more fell into lamentable fits.

Tell us, have not you had visible appearances more than what is common in nature?

I have none nor never had in my life.

Do you think these suffer voluntary or involuntary.

I cannot tell.

That is strange every one can judge.

I must be silent

They accuse you of hurting them, and if you think it is not unvellingly but by designe, you must look upon them as murderers.

I cannot tell what to think of it.

Afterwards when this was somewhat insisted on she said : I do not think so: she did not understand aright what was said.

Well then give an answer now dou you think these suffer against their wills or not.

I do not think these suffer against their wills.

Why did you never visit these afflicted persons.

Because I was afraid I should have fits too.

Note Upon the motion of her body fits followed upon the complainants, abundantly and very frequently.

Is it not an unaccountable case that when you are examined these persons are afflicted?

I have got no body to look to but God.

Again vpon stirring her hands the afflicted persons. were seized with violent fits of torture.

Do you believe these afflicted persons are bewitcht.

I do think they are.

When this witchcraft came vpon the stage there was no suspicion of Tituba (M<sup>r</sup> Parris's Indian woman) she professst much love to that child Betty Parris, but it was her apparition did the mischief, and why should not you also be guilty for your apparition doth hurt also.

Would you have me bely myself.

she held her neck on one side, and accordingly so were the afflicted taken.

Then authority requiring it, Sam: Parris read what he had in Characters taken from Mr Tho: Putnams wife in her fitts.

What do you think of this.

I cannot help it, the Devil may appear in my shape.

This is a true account of the sume of hir examination but by reason of great noyses, by the afflicted and many speakers, many things are pretermitted

memorandum Nurse held her neck on one side and Eliz. Hubbard. (one of the sufferers) had her neck set in that posture whereupon another patient Abigail Williams, cryed out, set up Goody Nursis head, the maid's neck will be broke. and when some set up Nurse's head. Aaron Wey. observed y<sup>t</sup> Betty Hubbards was immediately righted.

Salem Village March 24th. 169<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>.

The Rever<sup>t</sup> mr Samuell Parris being desired to take in wrighting y<sup>e</sup> examination of Rebekah Nurse hath returned itt as aforesaid.

Apon hearing the afores'd and seeing what we then did see together with y<sup>e</sup> charge of the persons then present wee committed Rebekah Nurse y<sup>e</sup> wife of ffran<sup>s</sup> Nurse of Salem village vnto theire Majes<sup>t</sup> Goale in salem as p a mittimus then given out in order to farther Examination

JOHN HATHORNE	}	Assist
JONATHAN CORWIN		

#### ANN PUTNAM JR v. REBECCA NURSE.

The deposition of Ann Putnam junr. who testifieth and saith that on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 169<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>. I saw the Apperishtion of Goddy Nurs, and she did immediately afflect me but I did not know what hir name was then: she I knew whare she used to sitt in our Meeting house but sence that she hath greviously afflected by biting pinching and pricking me: urging me to write in hir book. And also on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March being the day of hir examination I was grievously tortured by hir during the time for hir examination and also seuerall times sence, and also dureing the time of hir examination, I saw the apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs goe and hurt the bodys of Mircy Lewes Mary Wolcott Elizabeth Hubbard and Abigail Williams.

Ann Putnam Jun<sup>r</sup> did one the oath which she hath taken: this har evidens to be truth before us the: Juriers for Inquest this 4 d<sup>ay</sup> of June. 1692.

MARY WALCOTT. v. REBECCA NURSE.

The deposition of Mary Walcott, aged about 17 years who testifieth and saith, that on the 20<sup>th</sup> March<sup>1691</sup> I saw the apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs. the wife of Frances Nurs senr: but she did not hurt me tell the 24 March being the day of hir examination but then the Appersihton of Rebekah Nurs. did most grieviously torment me dureing the time of her Examination and also seurall times sence she hath most greviously affected me by biting pinching and almost choaking me urging me vehemently to writ in hir book or else she would kill me and on the 3<sup>d</sup> of May in the evening the Appereshtion of Rebekah Nurse tould me she had a hand in the deaths of Benjamin Holton John Harrod Rebekah Sheppard and seurall others, and also at the time of hir examination I saw the Apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs. goe and hurt the bodys of Ann Putnam Mircy Lewes Elizabeth Hubbard and Abigaill Williams.

Mary Wowlcot on the oath which she hath taken did owne this har testimony to be truth. before us the Juriars of Inquest this 3<sup>d</sup> of June. 1692.

ELIZABETH HUBBARD V. REBECCA NURSE.

The Deposition of Elizabeth Hubburd agged about 17 years who testifieth and saith that about the 20<sup>th</sup> March. 1692. I saw the apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs the wife of francis Nurs senr. senr. tho: she did not hurt me tell the 24<sup>th</sup> March being the day of hir examination and then she did hurt me most greviously dureing the time of hir examination, for if she did but look upon me she would strich me down or allmost choak me and also severall times sence the apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs has most greviously affected me by pinching pricking and almost choaking and urging me to write in hir book, and also on the day of hir examination I saw the apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs, goe and hurt

the bodys of Ann Putnam sen<sup>r</sup> and Mary Walcott and Abigaill Williams and Ann Putnam Junr.

Elizabeth Hubbard upon har oath she had taken did owns this testimony before us the Juriars of Inquest, this 3<sup>d</sup>

#### ABIGAIL WILLIAMS V. REBECCA NURSE.

The testimony of Abigail Williams witnesseth and saith that divers times in *the month* of March last past particularly on the 15. 16. 19. 20. 21. 23. 31 dayes of that month and in the month of April following at severall times, particularly on the 13. & 1 . . . of that month, and also in this present month of May. the. 4<sup>th</sup> and 29. days she *the said* Abigail has been exceedingly perplexed with the apparition of Rebeka Nurse of Salem Village, by which apparition she hath been pulled violently *and* often pinched and almost choked and tempted sometimes to leap into the *fire and* sometimes to subscribe a book the said apparition brought, and also *she saith* that she hath seen this apparition at a sacrament, sitting next to . . . [the man?] with an high crowned hat, at the upper end of the table and farther *saith* that said apparition hath sometimes confessed to her the said Abigail its guilt *in* committing severall murders together with her sister Cloyse as vpon old Goodm: Hanvood, Benj<sup>n</sup> Porter and Rebek: Shepard and saith shepard's . . . May 31<sup>st</sup> 1692. attested before.

Abigail Williams did owne this har testimony *on the* oath which she had taken, to be the truth before us *the* Juriars of Inquest this 3. day of June: 92

#### SARAH VIBER V. REBECCA NURSE.

The deposition of Sarah Viber agged about: 36: years who testifieth and saith: that on the 2 day of May 1692: I saw the Apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs the wife of ffrances Nurs sen<sup>r</sup>. most greviously tortor and affect the bodyes of Mary Walcott, Mercy lewes, and Abigaill williams by pinching them and almost choaking them to death, but I doe not know that she hurt me tell the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1692. and then the Apperishtion of Rebekah Nurs. did most greviously torment me by pinching me and almost choaking me seuerall times.

Jurat in Curia.

SAM: PARRIS. N. INGERSOLL & T. PUTNAM V.  
REBECCA NURSE.

The deposition of Sam: Parris aged about 39 years and Nathaniel Ingwersoll aged about fifty and eight yeares and Thomas Putnam aged about fourty years all of Salem. testifieth and saith that Ann Putnam sen<sup>r</sup> and her daughter Ann and Mary Walcot and Abigail Williams were seuerall times and greviously tortured at the examination of Rebekah Nurse wife to Francis Nurse of Salem before the Honourd Magistrates the 24: March 169<sup>1</sup> and particularly that when her hands were at liberty some of the afflicted were pinched and vpon the motion of her head and fingers, some of them were tortured: and farther that some of the afflicted then and there affirmed that they saw a black man whispering in her ear, and that they saw birds fluttering about her.

Jurat in Curia.

SAM: PARRIS & JN<sup>o</sup> PUTNAM SR. V. REBECCA NURSE.

The Deposition of Sam: Parris aged about 39 years and John Putnam sen<sup>r</sup>. aged about 63 years, both of Salem Village. testifieth and saith that this 18: instant June being at the house of Jonathan Putman whom we found very ill after a little while Mercy Lewes sent for on purpose came into said Jonathan Putman's house and was presently struck dumb, but being bid to hold up her hand if she saw any of the witches afflict said Jonathan whereupon she presently lift up her hand and after fell into a Trance and when said Mercy came to herself she saith she saw Goody Nurse and Goody Carrier, holding said Jonathan's head, and further saith not.

Jurat in Curia.

JOHANNAH CHILDREN V. REBECCA NURSE.

The deposistion of Johannah Childen testifieth and saith that upon the 2<sup>d</sup> of June. 1692. that the aperition of Goody Nuss, and Goodman Harrwood, did apeare to her and the said Harrwood did look Goodey Nuss in the face and said to her: that she did murder him by pushing him off the Cart and stroch the breath out of his body.

## EDWARD PUTNAM V. REBECCA NURSE.

The Deposition of Edward Putman aged about 30 years, he testifieth and saith upon the 25 day of March 1692. Ann Putnam seener was bitten by Rebekah Nures as she said did, about 2 of the clock the same day she was strock with her chane the mark being in a kind of a round ring and 3 stroaks a Cros the ring, she had 6 blos with a chane in the space of half an ower, and she had one remarkable one with 6 straakes acros her arme. I saw the mark boath of bite and chane.

Jurat in Curia.

## SARAH HOLTON V. REBECCA NURSE.

The deposition of . . . *Sarah Holton* . . . Relique of Benjamin Holton, deceased who testifieth and saith that about this time three years my deare and loueing husband Benjamin Holton Deceased, was as well as ever I knew him in my life, tell one Saterday morning that Rebekah Nurs who now stands charged for witchcraft, came to our house and fell a railing at him, because our piggs gott into hir field: tho: our piggs were sufficiently yoaked and their fence was down in seuerall places, yet all we could say to hir could no ways passifie her, but she continewed Railing and scolding a grat while together calling to hir son Benj Nurs to goe and git a gun and kill our piggs and let non of them goe out of the field: tho my poor husband gave her never a miss beholding word and within a short time after this my poor husband goeing out very early in the morning: as he was a coming in againe he was taken with a strange fitt in the entery being struck blind and stricken down two or three times so that when he came to himself he tould me he thought he should never have come into the house any more and all summer after he continued in a languishing condition being much pained at his stomach and often struck blind: but about a fortnight before he dyed he was taken with strange and violent ffitts acting much like to our poor bewitched parsons, when we thought they would have dyed, and the Doctor that was with him could not find what his distemper was, and the

day before he dyed he was very clearly but about midnight he was againe most violently sesed upon with violent fitts tell the next night about midnight he departed this life by a cruel death.

Jurat in Curia.

ANN PUTNAM V. REBECCA NURSE.

The deposition of Ann Putnam the wife of Thomas Putnam who testifieth and saith that on the first day of June. 1692. the Apperishton of Rebekah Nurs did again fall upon me and almost choak me, and she tould me that now she was come out of prison she had power to afflect me and that now she would afflect me all this day long and would kill me if she could for she tould me she had killed benjamin Holton and John ffuller and Rebekah Shepard and she also tould me that she and her sister Cloyse and Ed: Bhishop wife of Salem Village had kiled young Jno Putnams child because yong Jno Putnam had said y<sup>t</sup> was no wonder they war witches for their mother was so before them, and because they could not aveng themselves on him they kill his child and Immediately their did appear to me six childeeren in winding sheets which called me aunt, which did most greviously affright me and they tould me that they were my sisters Bakers children of Boston and that Goddy Nurs, and Mistris Cary of Charlestown and an old deaf woman att Boston had murthered them, and charged me to goe and tell these things to the magistrates or elce they would tare me to pieces, for their blood did cry for vengeance also their appeared to me my own sister Bayley and three of hir children in winding sheets and tould me that goddy Nurs had murthered them.

JOHN PUTNAM & HANNAH PUTNAM V. REBECCA  
NURSE.

The Deposition of John Putnam weaver and Hannah his wife, who testifieth and saith that our child which dyed about the middle of April. 1692. was as well and as thriueing a child as most was: tell it was about eight weeks old, but

awhile after that, I the said Jno. Putnam had Reported sum thing which I had hard consarning the mother of Rebekah Nurs, Mary Estich and Sarah Cloyes I myself was taken with strange kind of fitts, but it pleased Almighty God, to deliver me from them, but quickly after this our poor young child was taken about midnight with strange and violent fitts which did most greviously affright us acting much like to the poor bewitched parsons, when we thought they would indeed have died, whereupon we sent for our mother putnam in the night immediately as soon as she came and se our child she tould us that she feared there was an evill hand uponit: and also as fast as possibly could be we gott a Docktor to it, but all he did give it could do it no good, but it continewed in strange and violent fitts for about two days and two night, and then departed this life by a cruell and violent death, being enuf to pierce a stony hart, for to the best of our understanding it was near five hours a dying.

Jurat in Curia.

#### THO. PUTNAM & ED. PUTNAM V. REBECA NURSE.

The Deposition of Tho: Putnam aged about 40 years and Edward Puntman aged about 38 years witnesseth and faith that haueing been several times present with Ann Putman junr. in and after her fitts and saw her much afflicted being bitten, pinched, her limbs distorted and pins thrust into her flesh, which she charges on Rebekah Nurse, that she was the Actor there of and that she saw her do it.

The deponants farther testify that on the 24 march last past, at the publick examination of said Nurse we saw the said Ann Putnam, Abigail Williams and Elis Hubbard. often struck doun upon the glance of the said Nurse eye. upon said William Putnam, and Hubbard several times and the said Putman Williams and Hubbard was then afflicted according to the various motions of said Nurse, her body in time of examination, as when said Nurse did clinch her hands, bite her lips, or hold her head aside the said Putman Hubbard and Williams was set in the same posture to her great torture and affliction.

Jurat in Curia.

Thomas Putnam.

Edward Putnam.

JNO TARBALL FOR REBECCA NURSE & SAMUEL NURSE  
 FOR REBECCA NURSE.

John tarbell being at the house of thomas putnams upon the 28 day of this instant March, being the yeare 1692 upon descource of many things I asked them some questions and among others I asked this question wheter the garle that was afflicted did first speack of of Goody Nurs before others mentioned her to her, they said she told them she saw the apparition of a pale fast. woman that sat in her gran mothers seat, but did not know her name then I replied and said, but who was it that told her that it was Good nurs: mercy lewes said it was Goody Putnam that said it was Goody nurs: Goody Putnam said it was Mercy lewes that told her: thus they turned it upon one another, Saying it was you and it was you that told her, this was before any was afflicted at thomas putnams beside his daughter, that they told his daughter it was Goody nurs: Samuel Nurs. doth testifei to all above written

EXAMINATION OF REBECCA NURSE & ALS. NO. 1.

1692. Salem June 2<sup>d</sup> aboute 10 in Morning.

Wee whose names are vnderwritten being commanded by Capt George Corwine Esq<sup>r</sup>. Sheriffe of y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex, this 2<sup>d</sup> day of June 1692 for to vew y<sup>e</sup> bodyes of Bridgett Bishop alias Oliver.

Rebecca Nurse

Elizabeth Proctor.

Alice Parker

Susanna Martine

Sarah Good

The first three, namely: Bishop.

Nurse: Proctor by diligent search haue discoured a preternatural Excrescence of flesh between y<sup>e</sup> pudendum and Anus much like to tetts and not vsually in women and much vnlike to y<sup>e</sup> other three that hath been searched by us and y<sup>t</sup> they were in all three women neer y<sup>e</sup> same place

J BARTON Chyrurg<sup>en</sup>  
 Alice P pickering  
 her marke

Jane	V	Woolings
her		marke
Margery	O	Welliams
her		marke
Anna	N	Stephens
her		marke
Elizabeth	r	Hill
her		marke
Elanor	)	Henderson
her		marke
Rebecah	e	Sharpe
her		marke
Lydia	p	Pickman
Hannah		Kezeir.

Sworne in Court June 2<sup>d</sup> 1692

Attest STEP SEWALL Cle.

ISRAEL PORTER & ELIZABETH PORTER v. REBECCA  
NURSE.

We whos nams Are under writen being desired to goe to goodman nurs his hous to speeke with his wife and to tell her that seuerel of the Afflicted persons mentioned her: and Accordingly we went and we found her in A weak and Lowe condition in body as shee told us and had been sicke allmost A weak and we asked howe it was otherwis with her and shee said shee blest god for it shee had more of his presents in this sicknes then somtime shee haue had but not soe much as shee desired: but shee would with the Apostle pres forward to the mark: and many other places of scriptur to the Like purpos: and then of her owne Acord shee begane to speek of the Affliction that was Amongst them and in perticuler of Mr. Parris his family and howe shee was greued for them though shee had not been to see them: by Reason of fits that shee formerly use to haue for people said it was Awfull to behold: but shee pittied them with: all her harte: and went to god for them: but shee said shee heard that there was

persons spoke of that wear as Innocent as shee was shee beliued and After much to this purpos: we told her we heard that shee was spoken of allsoe: well shee said if it be soe ye will of the Lord be done: shee sate still Awhille being as it wear Amazed: and then shee said well as to thing I am as Innocent as the child unborne but seurly shee said what sine hath god found out in me unrepented of that he should Lay such an Affliction upon me In my old Age: and According to our best obseruation we could not decern that shee knewe what we came for before we tould her

Israel Porter  
Elizabeth Porter

To the substance of what  
is Aboue we if caled  
there too are: Ready to  
testifie on: oath  
Daniell Andrewe  
Peter Cloys.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

ANN PUTNAM JR. v. REBECCA NURSE.

untill this 31. May. 1692 at the same moment that I was hearing my Evidence read by the honoured Magistrates to take my Oath I was again re-assaulted & tortured by my before mentioned Tormentor Rebekah Nurse.

Sworne Salem Village May the 31<sup>t</sup> 1692  
Before us John Hathorne } Assis<sup>ts</sup>  
ann putnam senear Jonathan Corwin }  
appearid before us the Juerris  
of Inquest: and oned this har  
euidens this 3<sup>d</sup> Jnne: 1692.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

ANN PUTNAM SEN. v. REBECCA NURSE.

The testimony of Ann Putman jun<sup>r</sup> witnesseth & saith that being in the Room when her mother was afflicted she saw Martha Kory Sarah Cloyse & Rebekah Nurse or their apparition upon her mother

Testified to y<sup>e</sup> truth thereof  
by Ann Putnam Salem  
May 31<sup>t</sup> 1692.

Before us John Hathorne { Assis<sup>ts</sup>  
Jonathan Corwin }

Ann Putnam

*Essex Institute MSS.*

REBCAH PRESON & MARY TARBEL FOR REBECCA  
NURSE.

We whos names are underwritten can testifie if cald to it  
that Goodde Nurs. haue beene troubled with an infirmity of  
body for many years, which the Juree of women seem to be  
affraid it should be something else.

Rebcah Preson.

Mary Tarbel.

REBECCA NURSE PETITION TO THE COURT.

To ye Honour<sup>rd</sup> Cou<sup>r</sup>t of Oryer and Terminer now sitting  
in Salem this 28<sup>th</sup> of June An<sup>o</sup> 1692.

The humble petition of Rebeccah Nurse of Salem Vill-  
age.

Humbly Sheweth

That whareas sum women did sarch your Petission<sup>er</sup> At  
salem, as I did then conceive for sum Supernaturall Marke,  
And then one of the sd. women which is known to be, the  
Moaste Antiente skilfull, prudent person of them all as to  
any such concerne: Did express hirself to be: of a Contrary  
opinion from the Rest, and Did then Declare that shee saw  
nothing in or about yo<sup>r</sup> Hono<sup>r</sup>s poare pettissione<sup>r</sup> But what  
might Arise from a Naturall cause: And I then rendered the  
said persons a sufficient knowne reason as to myself of the  
moueing cause thereof which was by Exceeding weaknesses:  
decending partly from an ouverture of Nature and difficult  
Exigences that hath Befallen me In the times of my travells,  
And therefore yo<sup>r</sup> pettissione<sup>r</sup>: Humbley prayes I that yo<sup>u</sup>  
Honou<sup>r</sup>s would be pleased to Admitt of some other women  
to Enquire into this Great: concerne, those that are Moast

Grand wise and skillfull: namely: Ms: Higginson sen<sup>r</sup>: Ms Durkstone: Ms: Woodberry two of them being Midwives: Ms: Porter: together with such others, as may be choasen on that Account: before I am Brought to my triall: All which I hoape yo<sup>r</sup>. Honou<sup>r</sup>s will take into yo<sup>r</sup>. prudent Consideration. and find it requisite soe to doe: for my life Lyes now in yo<sup>r</sup> Hands, under God: And Being Conscious of my owne Innocency. I humbly begg that I may haue liberty to manifest it to the wourld partly by the Meanes abouesaid: And yo<sup>r</sup> Poare pettissione<sup>r</sup> shall Euermore pray as in duty bound &c.

Rebecca Nurse:  
hir Marke †

#### EXAMINATION NO. 2.

Salem aboute 4 afternoon June 2<sup>d</sup> 1692.

We whose names are subscribed to y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>th</sup>in mentioned, vpon a second search aboute 3 or 4 houres distance, did find y<sup>e</sup> said Bridgett Bishop alias Oliver in a clear and free state from any p<sup>e</sup>ternaturall Excresence as formerly seen by vs as alsoe Rebekah Nurse instead of that Excresence w<sup>th</sup>in mentioned it appears only as a dry skin w<sup>th</sup>out sence and as for Elizabeth procter which Excresence like a tett red and fresh, not any thing appears, but only a proper procedeulia Ani and as for Susanna Martine whose breast in y<sup>e</sup> morning search appeared to vs very full: ye nibbs fresh and starting, now at this searching all lanche and pendant which is all at p<sup>e</sup>sent from y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>th</sup>in mentioned subscribers and that that piece of flesh of Goodwife Nurseses formerly seen is gone and only a dry skin nearer to y<sup>e</sup> anus in another place.

J BARTON Chyrurg<sup>en</sup>

Rebecah **A** Sharpe  
marke

Alice **O** Pickering  
marke

Hannah Kezer

Ye marke of  
Eli **I** zabeth Hill

Marjery **&** Williams  
marke

Lidia **P** Pickman  
her marke

Anna **m** Stephens

Eleanor **II** Henderson Jane **a** Wollings  
her marke marke

Sworne in Court June 2<sup>d</sup> 1692.

## SARAH NURSE v. REBECCA NURSE.

The testimony of Sarah Nurs aged 28 years or th . . .  
about who testifieth and saith that being in the Cour . . .  
this 29 of June 1692 I saue goodwife bibber pull . . . pins  
out of her Close and held them betwene her fingers and  
Claspt her hands round her knese and then she Cryed out and  
said goody Nurs prict her this I can testifie if Calld as wit-  
nes my mark

Sarah <sup>mark</sup> S Nurs  
her

Massachusetts Historical Society MSS.—  
Witchcraft MSS. p. 37.

NATHANIEL PUTNAM V. REBECCA NURSE.

Nathaniell putnam sen<sup>r</sup> being desired by francis nurse  
sen<sup>r</sup> to giue informa[tion] of what i could say concerning  
his wifes f . . . and conuersation; I the abouesayd did . . .  
know this sayd aboue sayd woman fou . . . years & what i  
haue obserued of her human frailtys excepted: her life &  
conuersation hath been according to her proffession: & she  
hath brought up a great family of children & educated . . .  
well soe that there is in some of them apparent s . . . of  
godlines: i haue known her differ with her neig . . . but i  
neuer knew nor heard of any that did accus . . . of what  
she is now charged with

*Massachusetts Historical Society MSS.—  
Witchcraft MSS. p. 29.*

DECLARATION OF ISRAEL PORTER AND 37 OTHERS.

We whos nams Are heareunto subscribed being desired by  
goodman nurse to declare what we know concerning his wiues

conuersation for time past: we cane testyfie to all whom it may concerne that we haue knowne her for many years and Acording to our obseruation her life and conuersation was Acording to her profestion and we neuer had Any Cause or grounds to suspect her of Any such thing as she is nowe Accused of

Israel Porter	Daniell Andrew
Elizabeth Porter	Sara Andrew
Edward beshop sen	Jonathan Putnam
hana beshop	Lydia Putnam
Joshua Rea	Walter Phillipps senior
Sarah Rea	Nathaniel ffelton sen
Sarah Leach	Margaret Philips
John Putnam sen	Joseph houlton Junior
Rebeckh Putnam	Sam <sup>ll</sup> Endecott
Joseph hucheson sen	Elzibeth buxtston
leada hucheson	Samuel aborn senr
Joseph holten sen	Isaack Cooke
Sarah holten	Elisabeth Cooke
beniaman putnam	William Osborne
Sarah putnam	hanah Osborne
Job Swinerton	Daniell Rea
Esther Swinerton	Sarah Putnam
Joseph herrick sen	Joseph Putnam
Samuell Sibly	
hephzibah Rea	

*Massachusetts Historical Society MSS.—  
Witchcraft MSS. p. 30.*

#### DEATH WARRANTS

Warrant for execution of Sarah Good Rebecka Nurse,  
Eliz: How Susanna Martin & Sarah Wildes On Tuesday 19  
July 1692.

#### WARRANT V. ABIGAILE HOBS.

Salem. Aprill the 18th. 1692.

There being complaint, this day made (before vs) by Eze-  
kiell Chevers, and John Putnam Junr. both of Salem Village

yeomen; in Behalfe of theire Majesties, for themselves and also for theire neighbours Against Giles Cory and Mary Warren both of Salem ffarmes, and Abigaile Hobs, the daughter of William Hobs, of the towne of Topsfield and Bridgett Bishop y<sup>e</sup> wife of Edward Bishop of Salem Sawyer for high suspition of sundry acts of witchcraft donne or Committed by them vpon the Bodys of Ann Putnam Marcy Lewis and Abig<sup>l</sup> Williams and Mary Walcot and Elis Hubert of Salem Village whereby great hurt and dammage hath beene donne, to the Bodys of said persons abouenamed therefore Craued Justice.

You are therefore in theire Majesties names hereby required to apprehend and bring before vs. Giles Cory and Mary Waren, of Salem ffarmes, and Abigail Hobs the daughter of William Hobs of y<sup>e</sup> towne of Topsfield and Bridgett Bishop y<sup>e</sup> wife of Edward Bishop of Salem To morrow aboute eight of the clock in the forenoone at y<sup>e</sup> house of L<sup>t</sup> Nathaniells Ingersalls, in Salem Village in order to theire examination relateing to the premises abouesd, and hereof you are not to faile.

Dated Salem. Aprill. 18th. 1692.

JOHN HATHORNE.	}	Assists.
JONATHAN CORWIN.		

To George Herrick Marshall of the County of Essex.

#### SUMMONS FOR WITNESSES V. MARY WARREN.

You are likewise required to summons. Margaret Knight. Lydy Nichols, Elisabeth Nichols and Elezabeth Hubert, Jonathan Putnam and Hephzibah Rea & John Hewes all and every one of them to appear before us at y<sup>e</sup> abouesd time and place to giue in w<sup>t</sup> evidence thay know relateing to y<sup>e</sup> abouesd or like casses depending.

Salem Aprill 18th. 1692.

#### OFFICERS RETURN.

Aprill, 18th, 1692. I have taken the within named persons and brought them to the house of leut Nath<sup>l</sup> Ingersoll according to y<sup>e</sup> tennor of this warrent

P<sup>r</sup> me GEORGE: HERRICK Marshall of Essex.

Aprill. 18th. 1692. I haue summoned the within named to apeare att y<sup>e</sup> time and place within mentioned to Giue in whatt Evidencethay know Relateing y<sup>e</sup> premises.

P<sup>r</sup> me GEO: HERRICK Marshall of Essex.

#### DELIVERENCE HOBBS CONFESSION.

being at a meeting of the witches in Mr. Parisses field when Mr. Borroughs preached and administered the sacram<sup>t</sup> to them saw Good amongst the rest and this fully agrees with what the afflicted persons relate 22<sup>th</sup> Apr. (92)

#### ABIGAILE HOBS CONFESSION.

was in company with Sarah Good and knowes her to be a witch and afterwards was taken deafe and Mary Walcott Cr saw Good and Osburn run their fingers into this ears and a little after she spoke and s<sup>d</sup> Good told her she sh<sup>d</sup> not speake.

#### INDICTMENT VS. ABIGAIL HOBBS NO. I.

Essex in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England	} SS.	Anno & Reginae Gulielmi & Mariae Angliae & Quarto Anno Domini 1692
---------------------------------------------------------------------	-------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------

The Juriors for our Sou<sup>r</sup> Lord and Lady the King and Queen doe Psent that Abigaill Hobbs of Topsfeild In the County of Essex Single Woman At Salem aforesaid in the County of Essex aforsaid the Ninteenth day of Aprill. In the Yeare aforesaid and diuers other days and times as well before as after Certaine detestable arts Called Witchcraft and Sorceries Wickedly Mallitiously and Felloniously hath used practised and Exercised At and in the Towne of Salem. Aforesaid in upon and against one Mercy Lewiss of Salem in y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex aforesaid Single Woman. by which

Said Wicked Acts the Said Mercy Lewis the day & yeare aforesaid & diuers other days and times both before and after was and is Tortured Afflicted Consumed Pined Wasted and Tormented, and also for Sundry other Acts of Witchcraft by The Said Abigail Hobbs—Comitted and done before and Since that time against our Sour<sup>r</sup>. Lord and Lady the King and Queen Theire Crowne and dignity and the forme in the Stattute in that case made and Prouided.

Witnes

Mercy Lewes

Mary Walcott

Eliz. Hubbrd

Ann Putnam

[Reverse] Indictm<sup>t</sup> Ags<sup>t</sup>  
Abigail Hobbs for bewitching Mercy  
Lewis.      bil a Uera Cong<sup>ll</sup>

*Essex Institute MSS.*

#### ABIGAIL HOBBS EXAMINATION NO. I.

Abigail Hobb's Examination 20. April 1692 in Salem Prison.

This Examinant declares that Judah White a Jersey maid that Lived with Joseph Ing<sup>r</sup>son at Cascoe but now lives at Boston with whome this Examinant was very well formerly acquainted came to her yesterday in apperition together with Sarah Good as this Examinant was going to Examination and advised her to fly and not to goe to be Examined shee told them that She would goe. They Charged her if she did goe to Examination not to confess anything. She said that She would Confes all that She knew. They told her Also that Goody Osborn was a witch. This Judah White came to her in fine cloathes in a Sad coloured Silk Mantel with a Top knot and an hood.

She confesseth further that the Devil in the Shape of a man came to her and would have her to afflict Ann Putnam Mercy Lewis And Abigail Williams and brought their Images with him in Wood like them and gave her thorns and bid her prick them into these images which she did accordingly into each of them one and then the Devil told her they were afflicted which accordingly they were and Cryed out they were hurt by Abigail Hobbs, She confesseth She was at the great meeting in Mr Parris's Pasture when they administered the

Sacram<sup>t</sup> and did eat of the Red Bread and drink of the Red wine at the same time.

ABIGAIL HOBBS EXAMINATION NO. 2.

Abigail Hobbs Examination att Salem Prison May 12  
1692

Q. Did Mr Burroughs bring you any of the poppets of his wives to stick pinns into

A. I do not remember that he did

Q. Did he of any of his children or of the Eastward Sould<sup>rs</sup>

A. No.

Q. Have you known of any that have been killed by witchcraft

A. No. No-BODY.

Q. How came you to speak of Mr Burroughs wives yesterday

A. I dont know.

Q. Is that true about Davis's Son of Cascoe and of those of y<sup>e</sup> village?

A. Yes it is true.

Q. What service did he put you upon? and who are they you afflicted

A. I cannot tel who, neither do I know whether they dyed

Q. Were they strangers to you that Burroughs would have you afflict.

A. Yes

Q. and were they afflicted accordingly

A. Yes.

Q. Cant you name some of them?

A. No I cannot remember them.

Q. Where did they live?

A. Att the Eastward.

Q. have any vessels been cast away by you?

A. I do not know.

Q. Have you consented to the afflicting any other besides those at the village?

A. Yes.

Q. Who were they?

A. I cannot tell But it was of such who Lived att the fort side of the river about half a mile from the fort toward Capt Brackett.

Q. What was the hurt you give to them by consent?

A. I dont know.

Q. was their any thing brought to you like them?

An. Yes.

Q. what did you stick into them

A. Thorns.

Q. did some of them dy

A. Yes. one of them was Mary Laurence that dyed.

Q. Wher

Q. where did you stick the thorns?

A. I do not know

Q. was it about the middle of herbody?

A. Yes and I stuck it right in.

Q. what provoked you, had she displeased you?

A. Yes by some words she spoke of mee.

Q. who brought the image to you?

A. it was Mr Burroughs.

Q. How did he bring itt to you?

A. In his own person bodily.

Q. where did he bring it to you?

A. abroad a little way of from or house.

Q. and what did he say to you then?

A. he told me he was angry with that ffamily.

Q. how many years Since was it?

A. Before this Indian war.

Q. How did you know Mr Burroughs was a witch?

A. I dont know. She owned again she had made two Covenants with the Devil first for two years and after that for four years and she confesseth herself to have been a witch these six years

Q. did the maid complain of pain about the place you stuck the thorn in. ?

A. Yes but how long she Lived I dont know.

Q. How do you know Burroughs was Angry w<sup>th</sup> Lawrence's ffamily?

A. Because he told me so.

Q. where did any other live that you afflicted?  
 A. Just by y<sup>e</sup> other toward James Andrews's and they dyed also.

Q. How many were they more than one?  
 A. Yes.

Q. And who brought those poppets to you?  
 A. Mr Burroughs.

Q. Whatt did you stick into them?  
 A. Pinns. and he gave them to mee.

Q. Did you keep those poppets?  
 A. No he carryed them away with him

Q. Was he there himselfe with you in Bodily person?  
 A. Yes and so he was when he appeared to tempt mee to set my hand to the Book he then appeared in person and I felt his hand at the same time.

Q. Were they men women or children you killed?  
 A. They were both Boys and Girls.

Q. Was you angry with them yourself?  
 A. Yes tho I dont know why now.

Q. Did you know Mr. Burrougs wife?  
 A. Yes.

Q. Did you know of any poppits pricked to kill her?  
 A. No I dont.

Q. Have you seen seuerall witches at ye Eastward?  
 A. Yes, But I dont know who they were.

#### ABIGAIL HOBBS EXAMINATION NO. 3.

Examination of Abigail Hobbs before theire Maj<sup>ties</sup>  
 Justices June 29 1692

Saith y<sup>t</sup> on Friday last John Proctor Sen<sup>r</sup> being in a Roome w<sup>th</sup> her alone told her y<sup>t</sup> she had better to afflict than be afflicted and y<sup>t</sup> she should not be hanged & but Enjoyned her to afflict Ann Putnam and persuaded her to Set her hand to y<sup>e</sup> Book and Guided her hand personally to do it and after this his appearance brought me a poppet and a Thorne wh<sup>ch</sup> I stuck into y<sup>e</sup> poppit to afflict sd Ann Putnam a friday.

## LYDIA NICHOLS V. ABIGAIL HOBBS.

Idea Nichals aged about 17 years testifieth and saith that about a yeare & halfe agoe I asked abigaille hobs how she darst lie out a nights in y<sup>e</sup> woods alone she told me she was not a afraid of any thing for she told me she had sold herselfe boddy & soule to y<sup>e</sup> old boy.

and sins this about a fortnight agoe y<sup>e</sup> said abigaille hobs & her mother came to our hous my father & mother being not at home She begane to be rude & to behave herselfe unseemly I told her I wondered she was not ashamed She bide me hold my tong or elce she would rays all the folks thereabouts and bid me look there was old " or else old cratten sate ouer y<sup>e</sup> bedsted then her mother told her shee little thought to a bin mother of such a dafter.

Elizabeth Nichals aged about 12 years testifieth y<sup>e</sup> same she said at our house about a fortnight agoe.

## PRESCILLA CHUB V. ABIGAIL HOBBS.

The deposition of prisceller chub aged about 31: years, this deponent testifieth and saith that sum time the last winter I was discoursing with Abigaill Hobbs about her wicked cariges and disobedience to hir father and Mother and she tould me she did not care what any body said to hir for she had seen the divell and had made a covenant or bargain with him.

## MARGARET KNIGHT V. ABIGAIL HOBBS.

The deposition of margarett knight aged about 18 years who testifieth and saith that about a year agoe Abigail Hobbs and hir mother ware att my fathers house: and Abigail Hobbs said to me Margarett have you baptized and I said yes, then said she my mother is not baptized but said I will baptise her and immediately took watter and sprinckled in hir mothers face and said she did baptised hir in the name of the ffather Son and Holy Ghost.

## MERCY LEWIS V. ABIGAIL HOBBS.

The deposition of mircy lewes agged about 19 yeares who testifieth that about the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. 1692. I saw the apperishtion of Abigail Hobbs the daughter of William Hobbs com and afflict me by pinching and almost choaking me urging me to writ in hir book and so she continued hurting of me by times tell the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, being the day of hir examination but as soon as she began to confess she left ofe hurting me.

## MARY WALCOTT V. ABIGAIL HOBBS.

The deposition of Mary Walcott aged about 17 years who testifieth and saith that about the 14<sup>th</sup> April. 1692 I saw the Apperishtion of Abigail Hoobs, the daughter of William Hoobs com and afflict me by pinching and almost choaking me urging me to writ in hir book and so she continewed to afflict me by times tell the day of hir examination being the 19<sup>th</sup> April but as soon as she began to confess she left ofe afflecting me,

## ANN PUTNAM V. ABIGAIL HOBBS.

The deposition of Ann Putnam who testifieth and saith that about the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. 1692 I saw the Apperishtion of Abigail Hobbs the daughter of William Hobbs com and afflict me by biting pinching and almost choaking me urging me to writ in hir book and so she continewed by times hurting me tell the 19<sup>th</sup> of April being the day of hir examination but as soon as she began to confess she left ofe hurting me.

ELIZ<sup>b</sup> HUBBARD V. ABIGAIL HOBBS.

The deposition of Eliz: Hubbard who testifieth and saith that I was afflicted and tormented by Abigail Hobbs: seueral times before hir examination, also on the day of hir examination, she did most greviously torment me also I saw Abi-

gail Hobbs on her appearance most greviously afflect and torment Mercy Lewes Mary Walcott and Ann Putnam on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. 1692 being the day of her examination, but as soon as she began to confess she left ofe afflecting of us. and I belev in my heart y<sup>t</sup> Abigail Hobbs was a witch and that she has often afflicted both me and the abouesaid persons by acts of witchcraft.

Eliz Hubbard owned the truth of ye abouewritten evidence To y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Inqwest vpon oath Sept. 10 1692.

Abig: Hobbs in prison affirmed that Geo. Burroughs in his shape appeared to her, and urged her to set her hand to the Book, which she did, and after-wards in his own person he acknowledged to her, that he had made her set her hand to the Book.

1<sup>st</sup> June 1692

Abigaile Hobbs then confessed before John Hathorn & Jonathan Corwin Esq<sup>rs</sup>. That at the generall meeting of the Witches in the field near M<sup>r</sup> Parrisses house she saw M<sup>r</sup> George Burroughs, Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne Bridget Bishop als Olliver & Giles Cory, two or three nights agoe, M<sup>r</sup> Burroughs came & sat at the window & told her he would terribly afflict her, for saying so much ag<sup>t</sup> him & then pinched her. Deliverance Hobbs then saw s<sup>d</sup> Burroughs & he would have tempted her to sett her hand to the book & almost shooke her to pieces because she would not doe it

Mary Warren Testifyeth that when she was in prison in Salem about a fortnight agoe M<sup>r</sup> George Burroughs, Goody Nurse Goody procter, Goody parker, Goody pudeator, Abigail Soames, Goodman procter, Goody Darling & others unknowne came to this depon<sup>t</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Burroughs had a trumpet & sounded it, & they would have had this depon<sup>t</sup> to have gone up with them to a feast at M<sup>r</sup> parrisses & Goody Nurse & Goody procter told her their depon<sup>t</sup> they were Deacons & would have had her eat some of their sweet bread & wine & she asking them what wine that was one of them said it was blood & better than our wine but this depon<sup>t</sup> refused to eat or drink with them & thay then dreadfully afflicted her atthat tyme

John Hathorne } Assis<sup>ts</sup>  
 Sworne the first of June 1692 Jonathan Corwin }  
 Before vs

M<sup>d</sup> that at the time of the taking of this deposicon Goody Nurse appeared in the roome & afflicted the Depon<sup>t</sup> Mary & Deliverance Hobbs as they attested & alsoe almost Choaked. Abigaile Hobbs alsoe testified & M<sup>r</sup> English then run a pin into Maryes hand as she attested.

*Massachusetts Historical Society MSS.—  
Witchcraft MSS. p. 6.*

Abigail Hobs afirms she has seen Alice Parker afflict Mary Warin when sd Warin was at prison also I have seen her afflict An Putnam by Choking of them

Septem<sup>r</sup> 7, 1692 before y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Inquest.

*Massachusetts Historical Society MSS.—  
Witchcraft MSS. p. 34.*

#### INDICTMENT V. ABIGAIL HOBBS NO. 2.

Essex in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England	} Anno & Regina Gulielmi & Mariae Angliae & Quarto Anno Domini 1692
---------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------

The Juriors for our Sou<sup>r</sup> Lord and Lady the King and Queen doe present that Abagaile Hobbs of Topsfeild in the County aforesaid Single Wooman In the yeare of our Lord 1688. In Cascoe Bay In the Province of Mayne in New England. Wickedly and Felloniously a Couenant with the Euill Spirritt the Deuill did make Contrary to the peace of our Sou<sup>r</sup> Lord and Lady the King & Queen theire Crowne and Dignity, and the forme of the Stattute In that case made and Provided.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

#### DELIVERENCE HOBBS V. BRIDGET BISHOP.

Deliverance Hobbs. Exam<sup>e</sup> May 3. 1692 Salem Prison.

Q. w<sup>t</sup> have you done since whereby y<sup>re</sup>. is further trouble in your appearance?

An. nothing att all.

Q: but have you nott since ben Tempted?

An. yes S<sup>r</sup> but I have nott done itt, nor will nott doe itt

Q. here is a great change since we last spake to you for now you afflict and torment againe: now tell us y<sup>e</sup> truth whoe tempted you to sighne againe?

An. itt was Goody Olliver; shee would have mee to sett my hand to y<sup>e</sup> book: butt I would nott neither have I. neither did consent to hurt y<sup>m</sup> againe.

Q. was y<sup>t</sup> true y<sup>t</sup> Goody Wilds appeared to you and tempt-ed you?

An. yes that was true.

Q. have you bin tempted since?

An. yes about fryday or Saturday night last.

Q. did y<sup>t</sup> bid you that you should nott tell.

An. yes they tould me soe.

Q. but how farr did they draw you or tempt you and how farr did you yield to y<sup>e</sup> temptation? but doe nott you ac-knowledge y<sup>t</sup> that was true y<sup>t</sup> you tould us formerly?

An. Yes.

Q. and did you sighne then att y<sup>e</sup> ffirst did you nott?

An. Yes I did itt is true.

Q. did you promise y<sup>r</sup> to deny att last what you said before?

An. Yes I did and itt was Goody Olliver alias Bishop y<sup>t</sup> tempted me to deny all y<sup>t</sup> I had confessed before?

Q. doe you nott know y<sup>e</sup> man w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> wenne?

An. no I doe not know whoe itt is. all y<sup>t</sup> I confessed be-fore is true.

Q. whoe were y<sup>se</sup> you named formerly?

A. Osburne, Good, Burroughs, Olliver, Wilds, Cory and his wife, Nurse, procter and his wife.

Q. who were w<sup>th</sup> you in y<sup>e</sup> chamber? (itt being informed y<sup>t</sup> some were Talking with her there)

An. Wilds and Bishop or Olliver, Good and Osburne, and y<sup>a</sup> had a feaste both of Roast and Boyled meat and did eat and drink and would have had me to have eat and drink w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>m</sup>, but I would not and y<sup>a</sup> would have had me Sighned, but I would nott y<sup>n</sup> nor when Goody Olliver came to me.

Q. nor did nott you consent to hurt these children in your likenesss.

An. I doe not know y<sup>t</sup> I did.

Q. What is y<sup>t</sup> you have to tell w<sup>ch</sup> you cannot tell yet you say?

### DELIVERANCE HOBBS V. GEO. BURROUGHS.

#### Deliverance Hobs Confession.

That they were both at the generall meeting of the Witches in M<sup>r</sup> Parishes Mr. Burroughs preached and administered to them.

### BENJ<sup>A</sup> HUTCHINSON V. GEO. BURROUGHS.

The same day after lector in ye said: Ingersolls chamber abigaill williams mary walcot said that goody hobs of topsell bitt mary walcot by ye foot then both falling into a fit as soone as it was ouer ye said william hobs and his wife goe both of them a longe ye table ye said hucheson tooke his rapiere stabbed gooddy hobs one ye side as abigaill williams and mary walcot saide ye said abigaill and mar said ye roome was full of y<sup>m</sup> then ye said hucheson & Ely putnam stabbed with their raperres at a uentor yn said mary and abigell you haue killed a greet black woman of Stonintown and an Jndian that come with her for ye flore is all couered with blood then ye said mary and abigaill looked out of dores and said ye saw a greet company of them one a hill & there was three of them lay dead ye black woman and the indian and one more y<sup>t</sup> ye knew not.

This being about 4 a clock in ye after noone.

### EXAMINATION OF DELIVERANCE HOBBS.

(1) The Examination of Deliverance Hobbs 22 Apr. 1692.  
At a court held at Salem village by

John Hauthorne } Esq<sup>rs</sup>.  
Jonah Corwin }

Mercy Lewes do you know her that stands at the Bar (for the Majestrates had privately ordered who should be brought in and not suffered ye name to be mentioned) Do you know

her? speaking to another: but both were struck dumb.

Ann Putnam jun<sup>r</sup> said it was Goody Hobbs and she hath hurt her much.

John Indian said he had seen her, & she choake him.

Mary Walcot said, yesterday was the first time that she saw her i. e. as a Tormenter

Why do you hurt these persons?

Jt is unknown to me.

How come you to commit acts of witchcraft?

J know nothing of it.

Jt is you or your appearance, how comes this about? Tell us the truth.

J cannot tell.

Tell us what you know in this case. Who hurts them if you do not?

There are a great many persons hurts us all.

But it is your appearance.

J do not know it.

Have not you consented to it, that they should be hurt?

No in the sight of God, and man, as J shall answer another day

Jt is said you were afflicted, how came that about?

J have seen sundry sights.

What sights.

Last Lords day in this meeting house and out of the door, J saw a great many birds cats and dogs. and heard a voice say come away.

What have you seen since?

The shapes of severall persons.

What did they say?

Nothing.

What neither the birds, nor persons?

No.

What persons did you see?

Goody Wilds and the shape of Mercy Lewes.

What is that? Did either of them hurt you?

None but Goody Wilds, who tore me almost to peices.

Where was you then?

Jn bed

Was not the book brought to you to signe?

No.

Where were you not threatened by any body, if you did not signe the book?

No, by nobody.

What were you tempted to under you affliction?

J was not tempted at all.

Is it not a solemn thing, that last Lords day you were tormented, & now you are become a tormentor, so that you have changed sides, how comes this to pass?

Abig: Williams and Ann Putnam jun<sup>r</sup> cry out there is Goody Hobbs upon the Beam, she is not at the Bar, they cannot see her there: tho there she stood.

What do you say to this, that tho you are at the bar in person, yet they see your appearance upon the beam, & whereas a few dayes past you were tormented, now you are become a Tormentor? Tell us how this change comes. Tell true.

J have done nothing.

What have you resolved you will not confess? Hath any body threatened you if you do confess? You can tell how this change comes.

She lookt upon John Jndian, & then another & then they fell into fits.

Tell us us the reason of this change: Tell us the truth.  
What have you done?

J cannot speak.

What do you say? What have you done?

J cannot tell.

Have you signed to any book?

Jt is very lately then.

When was it?

The night before the last.

Will the Lord open your heart to confesse the truth. Who brought the book to you?

Jt was Goody Wilds.

What did you make your mark with in the book?

Pen and ink.

Who brought the Pen and Ink?

They that brought the book, Goody Wilds.

Did they threaten you if you did not signe?

Yes, to teare me in peices.

Was there any else in company?

No, Sir.

What did you afflict others by? Did they bring images?

Yes.

Who brought the images?

Goody Wild and Goody Osburn.

What did you put into those images.

Pins, Sir.

Well tell us who haue you seen of this company?

None but those two.

Have you not seen many?

No. J heard last night a kind of Thundring.

How many images did you use?

But two.

Nay here is more afflicted by you, You said more, Well tell us the truth. Recollect yourself.

J am amazed.

can you remember how many were brought?

Not well, but severall were brought.

Did they not bring the image of John Nichols his child?

Yes.

Did not you hurt that child?

Yes.

Where be those images, at your house?

No, they carryed them away again.

When?

They carred some then, & some since.

Was it Goody Wild in body, or appearance?

In appearance

Was there any man with them?

Yes a tall black man with an highcrown'd hat.

Do you know no more of them?

No. Sir.

*Note.* All the sufferers free from affliction during her examination after once she began to confess, tho at sundry times they were much afflicted till then.

*Note.* Wheras yesterday at Deacon Jngersols Mary Walcot & Abigail Williams cryed there stands Goody Hobbs,

showing also where, Benj<sup>a</sup> Hutchinson struck at her with a Rapier, & the afflicted that is the said Mary & Abigail said, oh you have struck her on the right side: Whereupon the Magistrates asking her after the publick examination whither she had received any hurt yesterday, she said yes in her right side like a Prick, & that it was very sore, & done when she was in a Trance, telling us also in what hovse and room it was done. Whereupon the Magistrates required some women to search it, who found it so as she had confessed. Also a little after the said prick in her side, she had som what in her left eye like dust, w<sup>th</sup> agrees with w<sup>t</sup> the afflicted farther said that Benj<sup>a</sup> Hutchinson afterwards toucht her eye w<sup>th</sup> the same Rapier, & said pointing to the place there was a mark which the Marshall being by said so there was.

Salem Village Aprill the 22<sup>th</sup> 1692. m<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>ll</sup> parris being desired to take in wrighting y<sup>e</sup> Examination of Deliuernce hobs hath deliuuered itt as aforesaid.

And vpon hearing the same and seeing what wee did see together with the Charg of the afflicted persons against them Wee Committed her.

John Hathorne.

#### EXAMINATION OF DELIVERANCE HOBBS.

The first Examination of Deliverance Hobbs in prison. She continued in the free acknowledging herself to be a Covenant Witch, and further Confesseth She was warned to a meeting yesterday morning, and that there was present Procter and his Wife, Goody Nurse, Giles Cory and his Wife, Goody Bishop alias Oliver, and m<sup>r</sup> Burroughs was y<sup>e</sup> Preacher, and prest them to bewitch all in the Village, telling them they should do it gradually and not all att once, assureing them they should prevaile. He administered the sacrament unto them at the same time with Red Bread, and Red Wine like Blood. she affirms she saw Osburn, Sarah Good, Goody Wilds; Goody Nurse, and Goody Wilds distributed the bread and Wine, and a Man in a long crownd white Hat, sat next y<sup>e</sup> Minister and they sat seemingly att a Table, and They filled out the wine in Tankards. The Notice of this meeting was given her by Goody Wilds. She herself affirms did not

nor would not Eat or drink, but all the Rest did who were there present, therefore they threatened to torment her. The meeting was in the Pasture by M<sup>r</sup> Parris's House, and she saw when Abigail Williams ran out speak with them: But that Time Abigail was come a little distance from the House, This Examinant was struke blind, so that she saw not with whome Abigall spake She further saith, that Goody Wilds to prevail with her to sign, told her that if she would put her hand to the book she w<sup>ld</sup> give her some Cloaths, and would not afflict her any more—Hir daughter Abigail Hobbs being brought in att the same time while her mother was present was immediately taken with a dreadful fitt, and her mother being asked who it was that hurt her daughter answered it was Goodman Cory and she saw him and the gentlewoman of Boston striving to break her Daughter's neck.

EXAMINATION OF W<sup>m</sup> HOBBS.

The Examination of  
William Hobbs at the Same Court.

*Hath this man hurt you?*

Several answered yes.

Goody Bibber said no.

*What say you, are you guilty or not?*

I can speak in the presence of God safely as  
*I may look to give account another day*  
that I am as clear as a new born babe.

Clear of what?

Of witchcraf

Have you never hurt these?

No.

Have you not consented that they should  
be hurt?

Abigail Williams said he was going to Mercy Lewes and quickly after said Lewes was seized with a fit.

Then said Abigail cryed he is coming to Mary Walcot and said Mary presently fell into a fit also.

*How can you be clear when the children  
saw somthing come from you & afflict  
these persons?*

Then they fell into fits & halloo'd  
*Suffe red greatly.*

er wife before you God wa  
open her mouth and she ha  
fession and you seem to  
before us.

*I am clear of any witch.*

*What do you call it, an over look ing of  
thern? you look upon them & they are  
hurt none of them.*

Then they all fell into gredt fits again  
When were you at any publick Religious meeting  
Not a pretty while  
hy so?

Because I was not well: I had a distemper.  
that none knows.

Can you act witchcraft here & by casting your eyes turn  
folks into fits.

You may judge your pleasure my sovl is clear.  
Do you not see you hurt them by your look  
No. I do not know it.

You did not answer to that question  
dont you overlook them?

No. I dont overlook them

What do you call that way of looking vpon persons and  
striking them downe?

You may judge your pleasure.  
Well but what do you call it?

It was none of I.

Who was it then?

I cannot tell who they are.

Why they say they see you going to hurt persons & im-  
mediately hurt persons.

Abig: Williams said he is going to hurt Mercy Lewes  
and imediately sd Mercy fell into a fit and divers others

Can you now deny it?

I can deny it to my dying day.

What is the reason when you go away when *there* is any  
reading of the Scripture in your *family*

He denied it.

Nath<sup>l</sup> Ingersol & Tho Haynes tes *tifyed*  
that this Hobbs daughter had told them *so*

As soon as your daughter Abigail & ast  
to day your wife confessed they left tortuing  
& so would you if you would confess: can you  
still deny that you are guilty?

I am not guilty.

If you put away God's ordinances, no wonder that the  
Devil prevails with you to keep his counsell. Have you  
never had any apparition?

No. Sir.

Did you never pray to the Devill that your daughter might  
confess no more?

No Sir.

Who do you worship

I hope I worship God only.

Where?

In my heart

But God requires outward worship  
not worship him in publick nor

worship him in my heart

worship him in your family

family speak the truth

not given the Devil advant

you thereby?

He was silent a considerable space  
then said yes

Have you not known a good while *how*  
that your daughter was a witch

No. Sir.

Do you think she is a witch now

I do not know

Well if you desire mercy from God own  
the truth

I do not know anything of that nature  
What do you think these people aisle?

More than ordinary

But what more than ordinary

silent

Why do you not answer what is they aisle

I do not know what they aisle I am sorry  
 It is none of I.  
 What do you think they aisle  
 There is more than ordinary  
 What is that  
 I cannot tell  
 Do you think they are bewitcht.  
 I cannot tell.  
 Now tell when your wife & daughter o  
 Did not you give consent that they should be *hurt*  
 Never in my dayes.  
 What do you think cused your wife she was

these the other day  
 nal God in Heaven knows  
 know that. We do not ask that  
 ther you do not know what cused  
 t tell I know nothing  
 man said he told me that if his wife  
 not write in the book he would kill her  
 was the same time that she did signe  
 ppears by the time of her appearing as a  
 ember of Mr Parris family & others.

Did not you say so  
 I never said so.  
 Salem Village Aprill 22<sup>th</sup> 1692.

Mr Sam<sup>ll</sup> Parris being desired to take  
*in wrighting y<sup>e</sup> Examination of*  
 and W<sup>m</sup> Hobbs  
 Sarah Wilds <sup>A</sup> deleured it a aforesd  
 and upon hearing y<sup>e</sup> same and seeing  
 what wee did see at y<sup>e</sup> time of h<sup>r</sup>  
 examination together with ye charge of  
 y<sup>e</sup> affected persons against her we  
 committed her to theire Maj<sup>s</sup> Goale  
 John Hathorne.

BOND V. WM. HOBBS.

Memorand<sup>m</sup>

That on y<sup>e</sup> fourteenth day of Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1692 in y<sup>e</sup> fowerth year of the reign of our Soueraign Lord & Lady William & Mary by the Grace of God of England &c. King & Queen defenders of the ffaith personally Appeared before vs James Russell & Sam<sup>ll</sup> Hayman Esq<sup>r</sup> of their Maies<sup>ts</sup> Councill & Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New Engld & Justices of peace within the same John Nicolls & Joseph Town of Topsfield in y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex Husbandmen Acknowledged them selues & Each of them to be indebted vnto our said Lord & Lady the King & Queen & the suruiuer of them their Heires & successors in y<sup>e</sup> somme of two hundred pounds to be leauied on their or Either of their goods or Chattells Lands or Tennements for the vse of our said Lord & Lady the King & Queen or suruiuor of them if default be made in the performance of y<sup>e</sup> Condition vnd<sup>r</sup> written viz. The Condition of the Abous<sup>d</sup> Recognizance is such y<sup>t</sup> whereas William Hobbs of Topsfield in y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex Aforesaid was committed to Boston Goal on suspition of witchcraft, If therefore the said William Hobbs shal make his personall Appearance before y<sup>e</sup> Justices of our said Lord & Lady the King & Queen at y<sup>e</sup> next Court of Assize Oyer & Terminer & Generall Goal delivery to be holden for or within the County of Essex Aforesd to Answere what Shall be objected against him in their Maies<sup>ts</sup> behalf refering to witchcraft, and to do & receiue y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> by said Court shall be then & there inioned him in their maies<sup>ts</sup> behalf refering to Witchcraft, And to do & receive y<sup>t</sup> which by said Court shall be then & there inioned him & not depart without lueiue, then the Aboue Recognizance to be void or Elce to remain & abide in full fforce & virtue,

Ja: Russell,  
Samuell Hayman.

Cap<sup>t</sup> & Recognit die & diel Coram.

[on reverse] John Neccolls & Jos. Towns Recognizance p<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Hobbs of Topsfield.

Called. fforfeite for non Appearance. Apear'd y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> day of May & y<sup>e</sup> fine remitt'd. 11<sup>th</sup> day Cleared by proclam<sup>a</sup>

*Mass. Archives Vol. 135. p. 70.*

## WARRANT VS. SARAH WILDS &amp; ALS.

Salem Aprill. the 21<sup>th</sup>. 1692.

There Being Complaint this day made (before vs) by Thomas Putnam and John Buxton of Salem Village Yeomen, in behalfe of theire Majes<sup>ts</sup>, for themselves and also for severall of theire neighbours Against William Hobs husbandman Delive<sup>r</sup> his wife, Nehemiah Abot junior weaver, Mary Easty. the wife of Isaac Eastey and Sarah Wilds the wife of John Wilds. all of the Towne of Topsfield or Ipswich and Edward Bishop husbandman and Sarah his wife of Salem Village and Mary Black A negro of Leut Nath Putnams of Salem Village also. And Mary English the wife of Philip English Merchant in Salem for high Suspition of Sundry acts of witchcraft donne or Committed by them Lately vpon the Bodys of Anna putnam and Marcy Lewis belonging to the famly of y<sup>e</sup> aboues<sup>d</sup> Thomas Putnam complain<sup>t</sup> and Mary Walcot y<sup>e</sup> daughter of Capt Jonath<sup>n</sup> Walcot of sd Salem Village and others, whereby great hurt and dammage hath beene donne to ye bodys of said persons abouenamed therefore craued Justice.

You are therefore in theire Majes<sup>ts</sup> names here by Com-required to Apprehend and bring before vs William Hobs husbandman and his wife Nehemiah Abot Jun<sup>r</sup> weaver Mary Easty the wife of Isaac Easty and all the rest aboue-named tomorrow aboute ten of the clock in the forenoon at the house of Leut Nath<sup>ll</sup> Ingersalls in Salem Village in order to theire examination Relatiing to the premises abouesayd and here of you are not to faile.

Dated Salem. April 21<sup>th</sup> 1692.

JOHN HATHORNE	}	Assists.
JONATHAN CORWIN		

To George Herrick Marshall of Essex: and any or all of y<sup>e</sup> Constables in Salem or Topsfield or any other Towne.

## EXAMINATION OF SARAH WILDS.

The examination of Sarah Wilds at a Court held at Salem Village  
1692.

by the wop=John Hathorn & Jonathan Corwin.

The Sufferers were seized with sou  
 the accused came into the Court  
 Hath this woman hurt you?  
 Oh she is vpon the beam.  
 Goody Bibber that never saw her before says  
 she saw her now vpon the beam & then  
 said Bibber fell into a fit.

What say you to this are you guilty or not?  
 I am not guilty. Sir.  
 Is this y<sup>e</sup> woman speaking to ye afflicted  
 Thay all, or most, said yes, & then fell *into fits*.  
 What do you say, are you guilty  
 I thank God. I am free.

Hear is a clear evidence that *you have*  
 been not only a Tormentor *but that*  
 you have caused one to signe the  
 book, the night before last. *What*  
 you say to this?

I ever saw the book in my life *and I never*  
*saw these persons before.*

*Some of the afflicted fell into fits*  
*Do you, deny this thing that is*  
*All fell into fits & confirmed*  
*that the accused hurt them*

Did you never consent that *these should*  
*be hurt?*

never in my life.  
 She was charged by some *with*  
*with hurting John Hemcks mother*

The accused denied it.  
 Capt How gave in a relation *and*  
*conformation of the charge before made.*  
 she was ordered to be taken away &  
 they all cryed out she was upon the  
 Beam & fell into fits.

#### INDICTMENT V. SARAH WILDS.

Anno Regis et Reginae Will<sup>m</sup> et Mariae nunc Angliae &  
 Quarto

Essex ss. The Juro<sup>rs</sup> for our Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King and Queen Prsents That Sarah Willes wife of John Willes of Topsfield Husbandman the Twenty Second day of Aprill in the forth Year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady William and Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King and Queen defenders of the Faith &c and divers other dayes and times as well before as after, certaine detestable Arts called Witchcrafts and Sorceries wickedly and Felloniously hath Used Practised and Exercised at and within the Towneship of Salem in the County of Essex aforesaid in upon and against one Marcy Lewis of Salem Villiage Single Woman by which said wicked acts the said Mercey Lewis the Twenty Second Day of Aprill aforesaid in the forth Year aboues<sup>d</sup> and divers other dayes and times as well before and after, was and is Tortured Afflicted Pined Consumed wasted & Tormented and also for Sundery orther Acts of witchcraft by said Sarah Willes committed and done before and since that time ag<sup>t</sup> the Peace of our Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King and Queen and ag<sup>t</sup> the form of the statute in that case made and Provided.

Witnesses

Marcy Lewis  
Ann Putman  
Mary Wolcott.

[Reverse] No (1)

*Essex Institute MSS.*

#### ANN PUTNAM v. SARAH WILDS.

The Deposition of Ann Putnam Jun<sup>r</sup> who testifieth and saith I have ben afflected ever sence the begining of march with a woman that tould me hir name was Willds and that she came from Topsfeild but on the 22 April 1692 Sarah Willds did most greviously torment me dureing the time of hir examination and then I saw that Sarah Willds was that very woman that tould me hir name was willds and also on the day of hir examination I saw Sarah willds or hir Apperince most greviously tortor and affect Mary Walcott, Mircy lewes and Abigail willia[ms] and seuerall times sence sarah Willds or hirs Apperance has most greviously tortored and

afflicted me with variety of tortures as by pricking and pinching me and almost choaking me to death.

Anne Putnam Jun<sup>r</sup> declared: y<sup>e</sup> above written: evidence: to be truth: before y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest: June: 30<sup>th</sup> 1692 upon oath.

[Reverse] Ann Putman.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

MARY WALCOTT V. SARAH WILDS.

The Deposition of Mary Walcott aged about 17 years who testifieth and saith that in the begining of Appril 1692 there came to me a woman which I did not know and she did most greviously torment me by pricking and pinching me and she tould me that hir ||name|| was wilds and that she liued at Topseil[d] and she continewd hurting me most greviously by times tell the day of hir examination which was the 22 day of Appril 1692: and then I saw that sarah wildes was that very same woman that tould me hir name was wildes and sarah wilds did most greviously torment me dureing the time of hir examination for when ever she did but look upon me she would strick me down or almost choak me to death: also on the day of hir Examination I saw sarah Wilds or hir Apperance most greviously torment and affect mercy lewe[s] Abigaill Williams and Ann Putnam Jun<sup>r</sup>. by stricking them down and almst Choaking them to death also severall times sence sarah willds has most greviously tormented me with variety of tortor and I verily beleive she is a most dreadful witch

Jurat in Curia

Mary Walcot declared to y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest: that y<sup>e</sup> above written evidence is y<sup>e</sup> truth: upon oath: June 30<sup>th</sup> 1692

[Reverse] Mary Wolcot.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

NATHANIEL INGERSOLL V. SARAH WILDS.

The Deposition of Nathaniell Ingersoll agged about 58 years and Thomas Putnam aged about 40 years who testifieth and saith that wee haueing been conuersant with seuerall

of the afflicted parsons as namely Mary Walcott Mercy lewes Abigaill Williams and Ann Putnam jr we have often seen them afflected and hard them say that one gooddy wiids of Topsfeild did tortor them: but on the 22 April 1692 being the day of the Examination of Sarah wilds of Topsfeild: the affore mentioned parsons ware most greviouly tortured dureing the time of hir Examination for if she did but look on them she would strick them down or allmost choak: them and if she did clinch hir hands or hold hir head asid the afflected Parsons aboue mentioned ware i[n] like maner tortured: and seuerall times senec wee have seen th[e] afore-mentioned parsons tortured and have seen the mark in ther flesh which they said sarah wilds did make by tortoring them and wee beleue that sarah Wilds the Prisoner att the barr has seuerall times Afflected and tormented the afore named parsons by acts of wicthcraft.

Jurat in Curia

[Reverse] Na: Ing'soll  
Tho. Putman.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

#### JOHN WILDS FOR SARAH WILDS.

John Wiells testifieth that he did hear y<sup>t</sup> Mary the wife of Jno Reddington did raise a report y<sup>t</sup> my wife had bewitched her and I went to y<sup>e</sup> saide Jno Reddington and told him I would arrest him for his wife: defaming of my wife but y<sup>e</sup> said Reddinton desired me not to do it for it would but waste his estate and y<sup>t</sup> his wife would a done w<sup>th</sup> it in tyme and y<sup>t</sup> he knew nothing she had against mye wife—after this I got my brother Averill to goe to y<sup>e</sup> said Sarah Reddington and my sd Bro<sup>r</sup> told me y<sup>t</sup> he told y<sup>e</sup> said Sarah Reddington y<sup>t</sup> if she had anything ag<sup>st</sup> my wife y<sup>t</sup> he would be a means and would help her to bring my wife out: and y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> said Sarah Reddinton replied y<sup>t</sup> she knew no harm mye wife had done her: y<sup>t</sup>

#### EPH<sup>m</sup> WILDS FOR SARAH WILDS.

The testimony of Ephraim Wildes aged about 27 or thereabouts testifieth and saith that about fouer yers agoe there

was som likly hode of my haueing one of Goody Simonds dafter and as the maid towld me hur mother and father were ueriley willing I should have hare but after some time I had a hint that Goodeey Simonds had formerly said she beleued my mother had done her wrong and I went to hare and toch Marke how that is now dead who dyed at the Eastward: along with me and before both of us she denied that euer she had eneey grounds to think any halme of my mother only from what Goodiey Redington had saide and afterwards I left the house and went no more and euer since she bene ueriley angriey with me and now she will reward mee.

Ephraim Wildes.

#### EPH<sup>m</sup> WILDS FOR SARAH WILDS.

This may inform this Honered Court that I Ephraim Willdes being constabell for topsfield this yere and the Marshall of Sallem coming to fetch away my mother he then shered me a warrant from authority directed to the constabel of topsfelld wherein was William Hobbs and Deliverence, his wife with many others and the Marshall did then require me forthwith to gow and aprehend. the bodyes of William hobs and his wife which acordingly I did and I have had serous thoughts many times sence whether my sezing of them might not be some case of here thus a cusing my mother thereby in some mesure to be revenged of me the woman did show a ueriley bad spirit when I seized: on might allmost se revenge in har face she looked so malishosly on mee as fore my mother I neuer saw any harm by har upon aniey such acout neither in word nor action as she is now a cused for she hath awlwais instructed me well in the christian religion and the wais of God ever since I,was abell to take instructions and so I leve at all to this honred Cort to consider of it.

Ephraim Wildes.

#### ELIZABETH SYMONDS V. SARAH WILDS.

The Depotion of Elizabath Symons aged about 50 years.  
Whoe testifieth and saith that about twelue ||or thirteene|| yeares sence theire ||abouts|| being in Company with my

Mother Androus, after a Lecter in Topsfeild my mother and I ware agoeing to giue Goodwife Redington a Visiat and as wee went wee ouer tooke Goodwife Wilds and my Mother fell into discourse about a syee that my Brother John and Joseph Androus had borede of Goodman Wilds for one day: and my mother tould Goodwife Wilds how John and Joseph Androus ware trobled about gitting home a Load of hay then good wife Wilds replied and said all that might bee and I know nothing of it. then my mother replied and said to her whie did y<sup>e</sup> threaten them and tould them thay had better a Let it aLone then she did threaten my mother and tould her that she would make her proue it and then my mother Coaled to mee and bid mee bare Witnes Elizabath what she saith, and then she did Looke bake apon mee and Emedatly I did fale into such a trembling condition that I was as if all my joynts did knoke together so that I could hardly goe a-Long, and the night foling ||after|| I was a bed I did see somthing stand betweene y<sup>e</sup> Wale and I. I did see somthing stand theire and I did Looke apon it a considradabell time so Long that I was afraid to Ly one that sid of y<sup>e</sup> bed and asked my husban to Let mee Ly one y<sup>e</sup> other sid of y<sup>e</sup> bed and he did, and then I did feele it come apon my feete as if it had bin a Cat and crope up t[o] my breast and Lay apon mee and then I could not moue nether h [torn] nor Foot nether could I speeake a word I did striue to cale to m[y] husban but I could not speake and so I Lay all night, and in y<sup>e</sup> moring I could speeake and then I tould ||my husban|| thay talke of y<sup>e</sup> old w [torn] but I thinke she has ride mee all this night and then I tould [torn *hus*]ban ho[w] it had bin with mee all y<sup>e</sup> night. we had a Lec [torn] once a month in Topsfeild and y<sup>e</sup> next Lectter day after y<sup>e</sup> first above named, as I was sitting in my seate Goodwife Wilds Coming by y<sup>e</sup> end of y<sup>e</sup> seat I sat in I was Emedatly taken with such a pay[n] in my bake that I was not abell to bare it and fell doun in ye seea[t] and did not know wheaire I was and some pepall tooke me up an[d] caried me out of y<sup>e</sup> meeting house but I did not know nothing of i [t] tell afterwards when I came to my selfe I did wonder how I come theire up to M<sup>r</sup> Hubbard house and when I did come to my selfe an[d] a great many pepall come about mee to aske mee what was y<sup>e</sup> matter with mee

Goodwife Wilds come and stood at y<sup>e</sup> End of y<sup>e</sup> tabell and I replied and said theire she is and my mother bid mee goe and scra [torn] her but I could not sture, and so I haue contined at times Ever senc som times with paynes in one plase and som times in another plase soe ||as|| I haue not bin abell to doe any thing in my fameliey at seur [torn] times I haue bin at y<sup>e</sup> Docters but thay cannot give mee any thing that doe mee any good this is in short of what I can say being heire in y<sup>e</sup> heart of what I can speeake too. I am verey Willing to Come and ateste to all aboue wrighteen and if y<sup>e</sup> Lord giue mee streanke but at present I am not abell to come.

Jurat in Curia.

[Reverse] Elizabeth Symons  
ag<sup>t</sup> Sarah Wiles  
to be Sumoned  
Abraham Reddington sen.  
Joseph Bixbey Jun<sup>r</sup>

*Essex Institute MSS.*

JOHN GOULD v. SARAH WILDS.

The Depotion of John Gould aged about 56 yeares or theire about. Testifieth and saith that some time sence whether it be fiveteen or sixteen yeares agoe I am not certing but it take it to be theire abouts sister Mary Redington tould mee as she was Coming from Salam with her Brother Redington that Goodwife Wilds did striue two or three times to pul her doune of her horse one time she did striue to pul her doune in a brooke but she did set her selfe with all her strenke she could and did git out of y<sup>e</sup> brook and soone after she was got out of y<sup>e</sup> brooke she said that Goodwife Wilds did pul her doune bakwords of her horse and held her doone so as she Could not helpe her selfe tell her Brother Redington and sarg<sup>t</sup>. Edmon Townes did come and helper, and my sister did desier mee to come and wright what she could say how Goodwife Wilds did afflicte her for she would Leafe it in wrighting so as it might be seene when she was dead and I did goe doune to wright it once or twise but when I was redy to wright it sister was taken so as she could not declare any thing. also sister Mary tould mee that when Johanthan Wilds

was ele\* at her house in a straing maner so as he could goe out at y<sup>e</sup> Chimey tops into y<sup>e</sup> barne hed git her henes and put them in to his brich [torn] and kiled them, sister Mary did aske Goodwife Wilds to take som of y<sup>e</sup> dead henes and Let her haue from Liueing henes and she did but sister said thay went moping about tell thay died and so shall I said sister Redington and y<sup>e</sup> Last words I herd sister Redington say was that it was Goodwife Wilds that brought her into y<sup>t</sup> condition she did stand to it tell her death.

Forder I doe testifi that as I was a feching two or three Load of hay for Zacheus Perkins, y<sup>e</sup> sd Perkins tould mee that I must Lay y<sup>e</sup> hay fast or elses his ant Wilds would not Let me cary it for she was angrey with him and as I went with one Load it did slipe doun in plaine way and I Lay it up againe and then I came almost at home with it it fell doun againe and I went and feched him another Load and when I came wheare y<sup>e</sup> first Load sliped y<sup>e</sup> seckond did slipe doun then I got some of our friends to helpe me Up with it and wee bound it with two Cart ropes but it did slipe Up and doun so as I did neuer see hay doe soe in my Life and when I came wheare I Left y<sup>e</sup> first Load y<sup>e</sup> hay went all of y<sup>e</sup> cart apon y<sup>e</sup> ground and did bring y<sup>e</sup> cart ouer and it was rising ground I did thinke that it was don by Witchcraft.

Jurat in Curia

Zacheus Perkins made Oath to the latter part of this Evidence relating to y<sup>e</sup> Hay,

Jurat in Curia

[Reverse] Liu<sup>f</sup> Jno. Gould

Zacheus Perkins.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

#### THOMAS DORMAN V. SARAH WILDS.

the deposition of Thomas Dorman aged 53 yrs saith goody wils was arnest with me to by one hiue of beese and sins good wife wils had thes beese I lost many Creturs and she Came to my hous one day and said She how doth your geese thrive and she went to the pen whare thay were fatting, and thay were very fat and we kept them a grat while longer feeding them with Corne and thay pind away so as thay were good for litle and I lost six braue Cattle Six yere agoe which was

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\*Ill?

frozen to death in the midell of Jenewary, now sum time this summer my wif went to Salem uilidg and my wife tould me that an putman the afflicted parsun tould hur that goodwif wils had whoried away my Cattell and I wondred an putman should know I lost my Cattle so long a goe

Jurat in Curia

[Reverse] Thomas Dorman.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

HUMPHREY CLARK v. SARAH WILDS.

y<sup>e</sup> deposition of humpry Clark aged about 21 year. saith y<sup>t</sup> about a yere agoo I was asleep and about midnight y<sup>e</sup> bed Shook & I awaked and Saw a woman Stand by y<sup>e</sup> bed Side which when I well Looked Seemed to me to be good wif Wills which jumped to y<sup>e</sup> tother corner of y<sup>e</sup> house & then I saw hir no more.

Jurat in Curia

[Reverse] Humphey Clerk.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

JOHN ANDREW & JOSEPH ANDREW v. SARAH WILDS.

The deposition of John Andrew aged about 37 years and Joseph Andrew agged about 33 years||both of Boxford|| who testifieth and saith that in the year 1674: we were a mowing to gether and one of us broak our sith and not haueing opportunity jest then to mend that nor by another wee went to the house of John willes sen<sup>r</sup>. of Topsfeild to borow a sith: but when we came there there was no man att whom: but the said willes wife who is now charged with acts ||of|| witchcraf: was with in: and we asked hir to lend us a sith but she said they had noe siths to lend: but one of hir neighbors being also there said to us there is John willes jun<sup>rs</sup>. sith hanging in that tree which stood by the house you may take that and speake with him as you goe to your work for he is at worke neare the way as you goe along: and accordingly we took down the sith out of the tree and tould the old woman that we would ask leaue of John Willes jun<sup>r</sup>. for his sith before we used ||it|| but she was very angry and said it was a braue world that euery one did what they would however we

went away with the sith: but we had not been gon very fare from the house but a litle lad came affter us whose name was Efraime willes: and tould us that his mother said we had best bring the sith back againe: or elce it should be a dear sith to us: howeuer we went on our way with the sith and asked the Right owner of it leaue for it before we used it and went to our work and cutt down as much grass that day as made about three load of hay: and Returned the sith to the owner: and after wards made up our hay: and afterwards went to carting of our hay and went into the meadow and loaded up one load very well and caried it whom: and went againe into the meadow and loaded a second load and bound it and went to Driue it whom: but when we came to driue our oxen we could not make them stire the load tho we had six good oxen and the Two foremost oxen ware on the upland and the meadow very firme where we carted constantly: but we striued awhile to make our oxen goe but could not git them along: att last one of our wheales fell in up to the stock altho the meadow was firme: then we threw allmost all the hay from ofe our cart and thought to trie to git out the cart with sum hay upon it but we could not then we said one to another it was in vain to strive for we thought goody Willes was in the cart and then we threw of all the hay and then we tried to make our oxen draw out the emty cart which at first they could not doe: but att last the whele jumpt up at once we know not how almost redy to thro down our oxen on their knees then againe we loaded up our load of hay very well and bound it: and away wee went with it very well tell we came near to a very dangeros hill to goe down with a load of hay: and ||then I|| the said Joseph Andrew was by the foremost oxen an[d] saw sumthing about as bigge as a dogg glance from a stump or roof of a tree along by me and the oxen and the oxen began to jump: but I could not stire from the place for I know not how long: and I the said John Andrew being by the hindmost oxen saw nothing but the oxen begining to jump I cast hold of one of the oxen bowes as was caried down violently that dangerouse hill I know not how: where was a brooke at the bottom of it with a bridge and a Ford: and the oxen ran into the ford and ouer thrue the load of hay their: and when I came to To

understand where I was and saw the oxen ware all well I bega[n] to bethinke myself of my Brother Joseph: and Immediatly called him but he gaue me no answer, and I began to be trobled for him and went backward towards the place where the oxen were affrighted and I called seuerall times but he gave me no answer att last I calle[d] and said the load is ouerthron then immediatly he answered me and came unto me: but how the load should keep upon the wheles runing so violently down that dangerous hill & being ouer throne where it was we can giue no account unles it was don by summ diabolicall art: then againe we gott up our cart and loaded up our hay very firme in resovling to gitt hom our load if we could tho it was night and wh[en] we had loaded we went to bind our load: but ||by|| all the Skill and strenth we had we could now wayes bind our load with our cart rope but it would hang lose on our load: however we went away whom with our load and it laid very well for all it was night and ou[r] load unbound: also before we got whom many of our friends and neighbors meet us being consarned for us because we ware so latte & they also saw our cart Rope hang lose and tould us of it, and wee tould them what mishap we had that day: and they also tried to fasten the Rope but could not: all which made us then to think and ever sence have thought: and still doe thinke that Gooddy Willes who now stands charged with ||High|| suspition of seuerall acts of witchcraft had a hand in our Mishap at that time.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. Andrew: and Joseph Andrew declared y<sup>e</sup> evidence written on these two sides to be y<sup>e</sup> truth on their oathes declared before y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest. June 30. 92.

Jurat in Curia by both Psons.

Jn<sup>o</sup>. & Joseph Andrew agst Wilds.  
nay. bewitchd

*Essex Institute MSS.*

REV. JOHN HALE v. SARAH WILDS.

I, John Hale of Beverly aged 56 yeares beeing Sumoned to appeare & give evidence against Sarah Wildes of Topsfeild July 2, 1692; Testify y<sup>t</sup> about 15 or 16 yeares agoe came to my house ye wife of John Hirrek of Beverly wth an

aged woeman she said was her mother Goody Reddington of Topsfeild come to me for counsel being in trouble of spirit when y<sup>e</sup> said Reddington opned her greifs to me this was one that she was assaulted by witch craft y<sup>t</sup> Goody Wiles her neighbr bewitched her & afflicted her many times greiviously, telling me many particular storys how & when she troubled her, w<sup>ch</sup> I have forgotten. She said allso y<sup>t</sup> a son in law of said Wiles did come & visit her (shee called him an honest young man named John as I take it) & did pitty her ye Said Reddington, signifying to her that he beleived his mother Wiles was a witch & told her storys of his mother. I allso understood by them, that this Goody Wilds was mother in law to a youth named as I take it Jonathan Wiles who about twenty yeares agoe or more did act or was acted very strangely Insomuch y<sup>t</sup> I was invited to join with M<sup>r</sup> Cobbet & others at Ipswich to advise & pray for ye said Youth; whome some thought to counterfeit, others to be possessed by ye devill. But I remember M<sup>r</sup> Cobbet thought he was under Obsession of ye devil. Goody Reddingtons discourse hath caused me to have farther thoughts of ye said youths case whether he was not bewitched.

Jurat in Curia.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

An account from John Harris sherife deputy of sondry charges at y<sup>e</sup> Corts of ir an terminar held at Sallem in ye year 1692.

	£	s.	d.
Jtt for pressing of hores & man to gard me with y <sup>e</sup> wife of John willes & ye widow pude- ater from Ipswich to Salem my self & gard	9	6	

#### EXAMINATION OF MARY EASTY.

The Examination of Mary Eastie.

At a Court held at Salem village 22: Apr. 1692.

By the Wop. John Hathorne & Jonathan Corwin.

At the bringing in of the accused severall fell into fits.

Doth this woman hurt you.

many mouths were stopt, and several other fits seised them

Abig: Williams said it was Goody Eastie, and she had hurt her, the like said Mary Walcot & Ann Putman, John Jackson said he saw her with Goody Hobbs.

What do you say, are you guilty?

I can say before Christ Jesus, I am free.

You see these accuse you.

There is a God.

Hath she brought the book to you?

Their mouths were stopt.

What have you done to these children?

I know nothing.

How can you say you know nothing, when you see these tormented, and accuse you that you know nothing?

Would you have me accuse myself?

Yes if you be guilty.

How far have you complyed w<sup>th</sup> Satan whereby he takes this advantage ag<sup>t</sup> you?

Sir, J never complyed but prayed against him all my dayes, J have no complyance with Satan in this. What would you have me do?

Confess if you be guilty.

J will say it, if it was my last time, J am clear of this sin.

Of what sin?

Of witchcraft.

Are you certain this is the woman?

Never a one could speak for fits.

By & by Ann Putnam said that was the woman, it was like her, and she told me her name.

It is marvailous to me that you should sometimes think they are bewitched, and sometimes not, when several confess that they have been guilty of bewitching them.

well Sir would you have me confess that J never knew?

Her hands were clinch<sup>d</sup> together and then the hands of Mercy Lewis was clincht.

Look now you hands are open, her hands are open.

Is this the woman?

They made signes but could not speak, but Ann Putnam afterwards *Betty Hubbard* cryed out Oh. Goody Easty,

Goody Easty you are the woman, you are the woman  
 Put up her head, for while her head is bowed the necks of  
 these are broken.

What de you say to this?

Why God will know.

Nay God knows now.

I know he dos.

what did you think of the actions of others before your  
 sisters came out, did you think it was Witchcraft?

I cannot tell.

Why do you not think it is Witchcraft?

Jt is an evil spirit, but wither it be witchcraft J do not know,  
 Severall said she brought them the book and then they fell  
 into fits.

Salem Village March 24<sup>th</sup> 169<sup>1</sup>.

Mr Sam'l parris being desired to take in wrighting the Ex-  
 amination of Mary Eastie hath deliuered itt as aforesaid.

Upon hearing the aforesaid, and seeing what we did then  
 see, together with the Charge of the persons then present,  
 Wee Committed sd Mary Eastie to theire Majes<sup>ts</sup> Goale.

JOHN HATHORNE	}	Assists.
JONATHAN CORWIN		

#### COMPLAINT OF MARY EASTY.

Salem May the 20<sup>th</sup> 1692.

There being complaint this day made before mee by John  
 Putnam Jun<sup>r</sup> and Benjamin Hutcheson both of Salem Village  
 for themselves and also for theire Neighbors in behalfe of  
 theire Majesties against Marah Easty the wife of Isaac Esty  
 of Topsfield for sundry acts of witchcraft by her Committed  
 yesterday and this present day of the date hereof vpon the  
 bodys of Ann putnam Marcy Lewis, Mary Walcot and Abi-  
 gail Williams of Salem Village to y<sup>e</sup> wrong and Injury of theire  
 bodys therefore crave Justice.

John Putnam Jun.  
 Benjamin Hutchinson.

## WARRANT V. MARY EASTY.

To the Marshall of the County of Essex or dept or Constables of Salem.

You are in their Majes<sup>ts</sup> names hereby required to apprehend and forthwith bring before me at ye house of Mr. Thomas Beadles in Salem, the Body of Mary Easty the wife Isaac Easty of Topsfield to Be Examined Relating to sundry acts of witchcraft. by her committed yesterday and this present day according to Complaint abouesd. and hereof you are not to faile. Dated Salem May 20<sup>th</sup> 1692.

JOHN HATHORNE Assist

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1692.

p<sup>r</sup> order of ye Council.

I have taken the body of the abouenamed Mary Estiee and brought her at y<sup>e</sup> time and place abouenamed.

P<sup>r</sup> me. GEO HERRICK Marshall of Essex.

## INDICTMENT V. MARY EASTY NO. I.

Province of y <sup>e</sup> Massachu-	}	Anno Regni Regis et Re-
setts, Bay In New Eng-		ginee Gulielmi et Mariee
land                    Essex ss.	nunc Anglice J " Quarto	
	Annog Dom. 1692.	

The Jure for our Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King and Queen P<sup>r</sup>sents that Mary Easty wife of Isaack Easty of Topsfield husbandman—on the twenty third day of May in the fourth year of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady William and Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotland ffrance and Ireland King and Queen Defenders of the faith &c. and divers other Day and times as well before as after certaine Detestable arts called witchcrafts and Sorceries wickedly and ffeloniously hath vsed Practised and Exercised at and within the Township of Salem in the County of Essex aforesaid in vpon and against one Marcy Lewis\* of Salem Village Singlewoman by which said wicked Arts the said Marcy Lewis the Twenty third day of May in the year abovesaid and Divers other Days and times as well before as after, was and is Tortured Afflicted Pined Consumed wasted and Tormented ag<sup>t</sup>

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\*There is also an indictment in the same language in the name of Elizabeth Hubbard.

the Peace of our Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King and Queen and ag<sup>t</sup> the forme of the Statute in that case made and Provided—

Witnesses

Marcy Lewis Jurat	Eliz Hubbard Jurat.
Ann Putnam Jurat	Mary Wolcott Jurat.

GEO: HERRICK v. MARY EASTY.

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1692. The testimone of Geo: Herrick aged thirty four or thereaboutrs and John Puttnam Jun<sup>r</sup> of Salem Village aged thirty five yeares or there aboutes testifieth and saith y<sup>t</sup> being at the house of y<sup>e</sup> aboue sd John Puttnams both saw Mercy Lewis in a Dreadfull and Solemn Condition: So y<sup>t</sup> to our aprehention shee could not continue long in this world without A mittigation of thoes Torments wee saw her which Caused us to Expediate A hasty dispatch to apprehend Mary Esstick in hopes if possible it might sauue her Life and Returneing y<sup>e</sup> same night to sd John Puttnams house aboute midnight wee found y<sup>e</sup> sd Mercy Lewis in a Dreadfull fitt but her reason was then Returned Againe she said what haue you brought me y<sup>e</sup> winding Sheet Goodwife Ess-tice, well J had rather goe into y<sup>e</sup> winding Sheet then Sett my hand to ye Book but affter that her fitts was weaker and weaker but still Complaining y<sup>t</sup> Shee was very sick of her Stomake aboute break of Day She fell a Sleep but still Continues Extream sick and was taken w<sup>th</sup> A Dread fitt Just as wee left her so y<sup>t</sup> wee perceaued life in her and that was all.

Jurat in Curia.

Sep <sup>r</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 92.	Atest.	Geo. Herrick. John putnam Jun.
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JONATHAN PUTNAM, JAMES DARLING, BENJ<sup>a</sup> HUTCHINSON  
& SAM. BRAYBROOK v. MARY EASTY.

The deposition of Jonathan Putnam, James Darling Benj<sup>a</sup> Hutchinson & Sam; Braybrook w<sup>o</sup> testify and say that we together with divers others the 20: May. 1692. between eight and eleven o'clock at night being with Mercy Lewes

whom we found in a case as if death would have quickly followed, and to whom Eliz: Hubbard was brought (said Mercy being unable to Speak most of the day) to discover what she could see did afflict said Mercy, heard and observed that these two fell into fits by turns, the one being well whilst the other was ill, and that each of them complained much of Mary Eastie, who brought the book to said Mercy severall times as we heard her say in her trances, and vexed and tortured them both by choking and seemingly breathless fits and other fits, threatening said Mercy with a winding sheet &, afterwards with a Coffin if said Mercy would not signe to her book, with abundance more of vexation the both received from her.

#### SARAH VIBBER v. MARY EASTY.

Sarah Vibber: affirmed vpon her oath: that she saw Mary y<sup>e</sup> wife of Isaac Esty upon Jn<sup>o</sup> Nortons bed; when sd Norton was ill: and sd goody Esty flew out upon her: and afflicted her: sd Vibber: and sd Vibber affirmed: that since y<sup>e</sup> time of the last examination of sd Esty: sd Esty has hurt and afflicted mercy Lewis: and mary walcot and Ann Putman: she or her Apperition: and she sd Esty has some times hurt and afflicted her: sd Vibber also since sd, Esty her last examination: also: sd Vibber sd that sd Esty or her apperition has Afflicted Elis. Hubbard: this sd Vibber owned to be y<sup>e</sup> truth: before y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Inquest

Aug<sup>st</sup>: 3: 1692.

#### MARY WARIN v. MARY EASTY.

Mary Warin affirmed before the Jury of Inquest: that Goodwife Esty of Topsfield has afflicted her she or her Apperition: and that sd Esty hath afflicted Marcy Lewis: Elizabeth Hubbard & Mary Walcott and Ann Putman: upon ye oath: y<sup>t</sup> she has taken. Aug<sup>st</sup> 3: 1692.

#### MARY WALCOTT v. MARY EASTY.

The Depoestion of Mary Walcot: who Testifieth and

saith that on the 20<sup>th</sup> of may 1692: about twelve of the clock: I saw the Apparition of goody Eastleck come and pinch and choake me: and terrified me much and she told me that she had blinded al our eyes, that ware afflicted only mercy Lewis for she said that she had not power anought to doe itt on that day she was cleared: on this 20<sup>th</sup> Instant of may: 92 about an hour by sun J went to m<sup>r</sup> John Putnams to see mersey Lewis: and their J saw the apparition of the aboue said gooddy Easteck: a choaking of mersy Lewis and pressing upon her breast with her hands and J saw hur put a chane aboue her neck and choaked her: and all the while J was their J saw her hurting of her greviouly: and she told me that she would kill her this night if she could.

Sworne Salem Village May 23<sup>d</sup> 1692.

before vs	JOHN HATHORNE	}	Assists
	JONATHAN CORWIN		

mary Walcott further testifieth y<sup>t</sup> on 23 may 1692 mary Estick did most greviouly torment me during the time of hir examination also ye day J saw her or hir Apperanc most greviouly torment mercy lewes Eliz: Hubbrt and ann putnam and I veryly beleve in my hart that Mary Estick is a most dreadful witch and that she hath very often most dreadfully tormented me and persons aboue named by her acts of witchcraft.

Mary wolcot declared before y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest: y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> above written evidence and that on y<sup>e</sup> other side of this paper is ye truth: upon oath: Aug<sup>st</sup> 4: 1692.

The Deposition of Abigail Williams Ann Putnam who testifieth and saith that we both goeing along with goodman Abby and Sarah Trask the 20<sup>th</sup> of may 1692. to the house of Constable Jn<sup>o</sup> Putnam to se Mercy lewes as we ware in the way we both saw the Apperishtion of Goddy Estick the very same woman that was sent whom the other day: and also the apperishtion of that woman that was with hir the other day: and the Apperishtion of Goddy Estick tould us both that now she was afflecting of mercy lewes because she would not clear hir as others did and w<sup>n</sup> came to mercy lewes who laye speachless and in a sad condition we saw there the Apperishtions of gooddy Estick and Jn<sup>o</sup> willard and mary

witheridge afflecting and choaking mercy lewes in a most dreadful maner, which did most greviously affright us and Jmmediately gooddy Estick did fall upon us and tortor us, allso Redy to choake us to death.

Abigail Williams and An Putnam Testifieth to y<sup>e</sup> truth of y<sup>e</sup> abous<sup>d</sup> Evedence.

Salem Village May the 23<sup>d</sup>. 1692.—

Before vs JOHN HATHORNE }  
                  JONATHAN CORWIN } Assists.

Ann putnam further testifieth on 23 may 1692. being the last day of the examination of Mary Estick she did most greviously torment me dureing the time of hir examination also on the same day J saw Mary Estick or hir Apperance most greviously torment and afflect mary walcott, mercy lewes Eliz. Hubbard and abigail william and J veryly beleue in my heart that mary Estick is a most dreadfull witch and that she hath very often affected me and the persons affore named by hir acts of witchcraft.

Ann Putnam declared to y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest: y<sup>e</sup> y<sup>t</sup> her above written evidence is y<sup>e</sup> truth upon her oath. Aug<sup>st</sup>. 4: 1692.

#### ELIZ. HUBBARD v. MARY EASTY.

The Deposition of Elizabeth Hubburt who testifieth and saith J being caryed vp to Constable Jn<sup>o</sup> putnams house on the 20<sup>th</sup> of may 1692 to se Mircy lewes who laid speachless and in a sad condition J saw there the apperishtions of gooddy estick the very same woman that was sent whom the other day: and Jn<sup>o</sup> willard and mary witherridge Afflecting and tortoring of Mircy lewes in a most dreadfull maner which did affright me most greviously and immediately goodey Estick did sett upon me most dreadfully and tortoree me almost Ready to choak me to death and urged me vehemently to write in her book.

Sworne Salem Village May the 23<sup>d</sup>: 1692.

Before vs. JOHN HATHORNE }  
                  JONATHAN CORWIN } Assists.

we whose names are under writen heaving been along with Elizabeth Huburd this time aboue mentioned herd hir declare what is aboue writen and we read it to hir when we came away and she said it was all true this 21 may 1692.

Thomas putnam      John putnam Jun.  
Jurat in Curia      Sept<sup>m</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1692.

Eliz. Hubburd further testifieth that on the 23 may 1692, being the last day of the examination of mary Estick she did most greviouly affect and torment mary waleott mercy lewes Abigail williams and ann putnam by twisting and allmost choaking them to death and I verily beleve in my heart that Mary estick is a most dreadfull witch and that she hath very often afflected and tormented me and persons aboue named by hir acts of witchcraft.

Eliz. Hubbard declared y<sup>e</sup> two aboue written evidences: in this paper before ye Jury of Inquest to be y<sup>e</sup> truth upon oath: August 4. 1692.

#### EXCUSE OF MARY TOWNE.

To the Honered Court now Seting in Salem

Right honered: the Constable of Topsfild hath sarved a warant on me and too of my dafters; to Apere this day at Salem I humby baig that your honer will not Impuet anything concerning our not coming as Contempt of a thority for ware I myself or any of my famely sent for in any capase of Coming we would com but we are in a straing conditioin and most of vs can scars git of of our beds we are so wake and not abell to Reid at all: as for my dafter Rebeka she hath straing fitts sometimes she is knoked downe of a sodin:

Mary Towne.

Date y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1692.

#### SUMMONS OF MARY TOWNE.

W<sup>m</sup> & Mary by y<sup>e</sup> Grace of God of England Scotland

ffrance & Ireland King & Queen defend<sup>rs</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> faith.

L. S. To Mary Towne Widow and Rebecka Towne her daughter.—Greeting:

Wee Comand you all Excuses Set apart to be and appear at ye Court of Oyer and Terminer holden at Salem to morrow morning at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock precisely there to Testify y<sup>e</sup> truth to y<sup>e</sup> best of your knowledge on Seuer<sup>ll</sup> Jndictments Exhibited against Mary Easty hereof fail not at vtmost your perill

Dated in Salem Sep<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1692 and in y<sup>e</sup> fourth yeare of our Reign.

STEPHEN SEWALL cler

To y<sup>e</sup> Constable of Topsfield hereof make return fail not.

I have warned the Widow town and her dafter to aprear at the corte acording to time spoken of in the warant as atested.

by me EPHRAIM WILDES

constable of Topsfield

THOMAS Ffosse & ELIZABETH Ffosse FOR

MARY EASTY.

this may sartifie home it may cuncern  
that we hows names are vnder Ritten  
Being dasired by some of the Realeations of  
mary estwcke to giue our absarvations how  
she behaued hurselv while she Remained  
in Ipswech prison we dow afarme that  
wee sawe noe ell carreg or behaviour iu  
hure but that hure daportment wos i  
Sobor and civell as witnes owr hands *this*

5 Saptem. 92.

thomos F[ffosse

his mark

elesebeth F[ffosse

hur m

SAMUEL ABBY v. MARY EASTY.

The Deposition of Samuel Abby aged about 45 years who testifieth and saith that on the 20th of may 1692 I went to the house of constable Jn<sup>o</sup> putnam about 9 a clock in the

moring and when J came there: Mircy lewes lay on the bed in a sad condition and continueing speachless for about an hour: the man not being at whom: the woman desired me to goe to Tho: putnams to bring Ann putnam to se if she could se who it was that hurt Mircy lewes: accordingly J went: and found Abigail williams along with ann putnam and brought them both to se mercy lewes: and as they ware a goeing along the way both of them said that they saw the Apperishtion of Goody Estick and said it was the same woman that was sent whom the other day: and said also that they saw the Apperishtion of the other woman that appered with goddy estick the other day, and both of them aliso said that the Apperishtion of goddy Estick tould them that now she was afflecting of mircy lewes and when they came to Mircy lewes both of them said that they saw the Apperishtion of goddy Estick and Jn<sup>o</sup> willard and mary withridge afflecting the body of mircy lewes: and J continueing along with mircy who contineued in a sad condition the greatest part of the day being in such tortors as no tonuge can express; but not able to spake: but at last said Deare lord Received my soule and againe said lord let them not kill me quitt, but at last she came to hir self for a little whille and was very sensable and then she said that goody estick said she would kill hir before midnight because she did not cleare hir so as the Rest did, then againe presently she fell very bad and cried out pray for the salvation of my soule for they will kill me.

Jurat in Curia      Sep<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> '92.

SARAH TRASK V. MARY EASTY.

Sarah Trask aged about 19 years testifieth that she went along with Abigail williams and Ann putnam and also hard them say what is aboue written they said: and also hard mercy lewes declare what is aboue writen she said.

EDWARD PUTNAM V. MARY EASTY.

the deposition of Edward Putnam aged abought 38 years he testifieth and saith abought 18 day of may 1692. mary

easty the prisner now at the bar being then seat at liberty but one the 20 and 21 days of may marcy lues was so greuiously afflicted and tortred by her (as she herself and mary walcott ann putnam Elizabeth hubbart abigel williams said) I myself being ther present with seueral others with marcy lues looked for nothing else: but present death with marcy lues for all most the space of two days and a night she was choked allmost to death in so much we thought sumtimes she had banded her mouth and teath shut and all this uery often until shuch time as we under stood mary easty was laid in Jrons, allso upon the second day of mary estys examination at the uilag marcy lues mary wallcott elizabeth hubbart ann putnam mary warin and abigell williams when mary easty came to the Bar was choked in shuch a most greuious maner that the honred magestrats could not proseed to her examination untell they desired Re<sup>nd</sup> haile to go to prayer and in prayer time and sumtime after it they remained in this sad condition of being allmost choked to death and when they ware abul againe to speak they all with one Consent charged her that she did them that mischief. J all so haue hard sum of them Complain uery often of hur hurting them with the spindall of a wheel.

Jurat in Curia.

Edward Putnam.

#### SAMUEL SMITH v. MARY EASTY.

The deposistion of Samuell Smith of Boxford aged about 25 yers who testifieth and saith that about fife years sence J was one night at the house of Isaac Estick sen<sup>r</sup> of Topsfield and J was as farr as I know not Rude in discourse and the aboue said Esticks wife said to me J would not haue you be so rude in discourse for J might Rue it here after and as J was agoeing whom that night about a quarter of a mille from the said Esticks house by a stone wall J Received a little blow on my shoulder with I know not what and the stone wall rattled uery much which affrighted me my horse also was affrighted very much but I cannot give the reson of it.

## MARGARET REDINGTON V. MARY EASTY.

the depesiastion of margret Redengton aged about seuenty yers testifieth and saith that about three yers a gow J was at goodman Esties and talkking with his wife about an Jnfermety J hade and presently after J fell into a most sollow condision and the thresday before the thanksgiuing that wee hade last Jn the afternone J was exseding elle and that night godey Estiey apered to mee and profered me a pece of fresh mete and J tolld hare twas not fete for the doges and J wodlld haue non of ite and then she vanished awaye.

## PETITION OF MARY EASTY &amp; SARAH CLOYS.

The humble Request of Mary Esty and Sarah Cloys to the Honoured Court.

Humbly sheweth, that whereas we two Sisters Mary Esty and Sarah Cloys stand now before the Honoured court charged with the suspition of Witchcraft our humble request is first that seing we are neither able to plead our owne cause, nor is councell alowed to those in our condicion, that you who are our Judges, would please to be of councell to us, to direct us wher in we may stand in neede, Secondly that wheras we are not conscious to ourselves of any guilt in the least degree of that crime, whereof we are now accused (in the presence of ye Living God we speake it, before whose awfull Tribunall we know we shall ere Long appeare) nor of any other scandlouse evill, or miscaryage inconsistant with Christianity, Those who have had ye longest and best knowledge of vs, being persons of good report, may be suffered to Testifie upon oath what they know concerning each of vs, viz Mr. Capen the pastour and those of y<sup>e</sup> Towne and Church of Topsfield, who are ready to say something which we hope may be looked upon, as very considerable in this matter: with the seven children of one of us, viz Mary Esty, and it may be produced of like nature in reference to the wife of Peter Cloys, her sister, Thirdly that the Testimony of witches, or such, as are afflicted, as is supposed, by witches may not be improved to condemn us, without other Legal evidence concurring, we hope the honoured Court and Jury will be soe

tender of the lives of such as we are who have for many yeares lived vnder the vnblemished reputation of Christianity as not to condemne them without a fayre and equall hearing of what may be sayd for us, as well as against us, And your poore supplyants shall be bound always to pray &c.

#### PETITION OF MARY EASTY.

The humbl petition of mary Eastick unto his Excellencyes  
Sr W<sup>m</sup> Phipps and to the honour<sup>d</sup> Judge and Bench now  
Siting Jn Judicature in Salem and the Reuerend ministers  
humbly sheweth.

That wheras your poor and Humble Petition being condemned to die Doe humbly begg of you to take it in your Judicious and pious considerations that your Poor and humble petitioner knowing my own Jnnocencye Blised be the Lord for it and seeing plainly the wiles and subtilty of my accusers by myselfe cannot but Judg charitably of others that are going ye same way of myselfe if the Lord stepps not mightily in i was confined a whole month upon the same account that J am condemned now for and then cleared by the afflicted persons as some of your honours know and in two dayes time J was cryed out upon by them and have been confined and now am condemned to die the Lord aboue knows my Jnnocencye then and likewise does now as att the great day will be known to men and Angells—I Petition to your honours not for my own life for J know J must die and my appointed time is sett but the Lord he knowes it is that if it be possible no more Jnnocent blood may be shed which undoubtidly cannot be Anoydd Jn the way and course you goe in J question not but your honours does to the utmost of your Power in the discouery and Selecting of witchcraft and witches and would not be gulty of Jnnocent blood for the world but by my oun Jnnocencye I know you are in the wrong way the Lord in his infinite mercye direct you in this great work if it be his blessed will that no more Jnnocent blood be shed J would humbly begg of you that your honors would be pleased to examine theis Afflicted Persons strictly and keep them apart some time and Likewise to try some of these confesing wiches J being confident there is severall of

them has belyed themselves and others as will appeare if not in this word J am sure in the world to come whither J am now agoing and J Question not but youle see an alteration of thes things they say myselfe and others haueing made a League with the Divel we cannot confesse J know and the Lord knows as will shortly appeare they belye me and so J Question not but they doe others the Lord aboue who is the Searcher of all hearts knowes that as I shall answer it att the Tribunall seat that I know not the least thinge of witchcraft therefore J cannot J dare not belye my own soule J beg you honers not to deny this my humble petition from a poor dying Jnnocent person and J Question not but the Lord will giue a blessng to yor endeuers.

To his Excellencye S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Phipps. Gouern<sup>r</sup> and to the honoured Judge and Magistrates now setting in Judicature in Salem.

EDW<sup>d</sup> BISHOP SARAH BISHOP AND MARY ESTEY V.

MARY WARREN.

Edward Bishop Aged Aboute 44 yeares Sarah Bishop Aged Aboute 41 yeares And Mary Estey Aged Aboute 56 yeares all Testifie and say that Aboute three weekes Ago, to say when wee was in Salem Goale then and there wee heard Mary Warrin seuerall times say that the Magistrates might as well examine Keysar's Daughter that had Bin Distracted many Years. And Take Noatice of what shee said: as well as any of the Afflicted p<sup>r</sup>sons for said Ma<sup>r</sup>y Warrin when I was Afflicted I thought I saw the Apparissions of A. hundred persons: for shee said hir head was Distempered that shee could not tell what shee said. And the said Mary Touled us that when shee was well againe shee could not say that shee saw any of the Apparissions at the Time aforesaid.

## COMPLAINT V. ELIZABETH HOW.

Salem May the 28<sup>th</sup> 1692. Joseph Houlton and John Wallcot both of Salem Village yeoman made Complaint in behalfe of theire Majes<sup>ts</sup> against Carrier of Andover the wife of Thomas Carrier of s<sup>d</sup> Towne husbandman ffosdick of maulden or charlestown Reed of Marble-head the wife of Samull Reed of sd place Rice of Reding the wife of Nicholas Rice of sd Towne [Elizabeth] How the wife of James How of Topsfield Capt. John Alden of Boston mariner, William procter of Salem ffarmes. Capt. John flood of Rumney marsh mariner, Mary Toothaker, the wife of Roger toothaker of Belrica and Toothaker the daufter of s<sup>d</sup> Roger Toothaker [Nehemiah] Abbot y<sup>t</sup> liues between Jp<sup>s</sup> Topsfield & wenham ffor sundry acts of Witchcraft by them and every one of them Committed on the bodys of Mary Walcot, Abigail Williams Marcy Lewis Ann putnam and others belonging to Salem Village or farmes Lately to the hurt and Injury of theire bodys therefore Craues Justice.

Joseph houlton  
John Walcott.

## WARRANT V. ELIZABETH HOW.

To ye Constable of Topsfield

You are in theyre Majestyes Names hereby Required to Apprehend and bring before us Elizabeth How y<sup>e</sup> wife of James How of Topsfield Husbandman, on Tuesday next being y<sup>e</sup> thirty first day of May about Ten of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> forenoon at y<sup>e</sup> house of Lev<sup>t</sup> Nathaniell Ingersolls of Sallem Village, Whoe Stand Charged w<sup>th</sup> Sundry Acts of Witchcraft done or Committed on y<sup>e</sup> bodyes of Mary Walcott, Abigall Williams and others of Salem Village, to theyr great hurt, in order to hir examination, Relateing to y<sup>e</sup> aboues<sup>d</sup> premises, and hereof you are nott to fayle.

Dat<sup>d</sup> Salem May 28<sup>th</sup> 1692.

J vs. JOHN HATHORNE }  
                  JONATHAN CORWIN } Assists.

In obedence to this warrant J have apprehended Elizabeth How the wife of Jems how on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1692, and haue brought har unto the house of leftenant nathaniell englosons according too to warant as atested by me.

EPHRAIM WILDES constabell  
for the town of Topsfield.

Dated May 31<sup>st</sup> 1692.

#### EXAMINATION OF ELIZABETH HOW.

The examination of Eliz. How. 31. May 1692.

Mercy Lewis and Mary Walcot fell in a fit quickly after the examinant came in.

Mary Walcot said that this woman the examinant had pinch'd her and choakt this month. Ann Putnam said she had hurt her three times. What say you to this charge? Here are them that charge you with witchcraft.

If it was the last moment I was to live, God knows J am innocent of any thing in this nature.

Did not you take notice that now when you lookt upon Mercy Lewis she was struck down?

J cannot help it,

You are charged here, what doe you say?

J am innocent of any thing of this nature.

Js this the first time that ever you were accused?

Yes S<sup>r</sup>

Do not you know that one at Ipswich hath accused you?  
This is the first time that ever J heard of it.

You say that you never heard of these folks before.

Mercy Lewis at length spake and charged this woman with hurting and pinching her. And then Abigail Williams cryed she had hurt me a great many times, a great while and she hath brought me the book, Ann Putnam had a pin stuck in her hand.

What do you say to this?

J cannot help it.

What consent have you given?

Mary Warren cryed out she was prickt

Abig Williams cryed out that she was pincht, and great prints were seen in her arm.

Have not you seen some apparition?  
No, never in all my life.

Those that haue confessed, they tell us they used images  
and pins, now tell us what you have used.

You would not haue me confess that which J know not.

She lookt upon Mary Warren, and said Warren violently  
fell down. Look vpon this maid viz: Mary Walcot, her  
back being towards the Examinant, Mary Warren and Ann  
Putnam said they saw this woman upon her, Susan Sheldon  
saith this was the woman that carryed her yesterday to the  
Pond. Sus. Sheldon carried to the examinant in a fit and was  
well upon grasping her arm.

You said you never heard before of these people.

Not before the warrant was served upon me last Sabbath  
day, John Jndian cryed out O she bites, and fell into a grev-  
ious fit; and so carried to her in his fit and was well upon  
her grasping him,

What do you say to these things, they can not come to  
you?

Sr I am not able to give account of it.

Cannot you tell what keeps them off from your body?

J cannot tell, J know not what it is?

That is strange that you should do these things and not be  
able to tell how.

This is a true account of the examination of Eliz: How  
taken from my characters written at the time thereof. Wit-  
ness my hand

Sam. Parris.

#### WITNESSES V. ELIZABETH HOW.

Witnesses against goody How.

Samuel Perley & his wife.	Deborah Pearly
Timothy Pearly	Sarah Andrews
deacon Cummins his wife	Thomas Seasons wife
Joseph Andrews & his wife	of boxford
Boxford	John sherring of Ips-
Joseph Safford Jpswich	wich
	Abram Howe wife

## INDICTMENT V. ELIZABETH HOW.

Anno Regis et Reginee Willm et Mariee nunc Anglice &c  
Quarto.

Essex ss. The Juror<sup>s</sup> for our Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King and Queen Prsents That Elizabeth How wife of James How of Ipswich the thirty first day of May in the forth year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady, William & Mary by the Grace of God of England Scottland ffrance, and Jreland King and Queen defenders of the ffaith &c. and Divers other dayes and times as well before as after Certaine Detestable Arts called witchcraft, and sorceries wickedly and ffeloniously hath vsed Practised and Exercised at and within the Towneship of Salem in the county of Essex aforesaid in upon and against one Mary Wolcott\* of Salem Villiage singlewoman by which said wicked arts the said Mary Walcott the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May in the forth year as aboue-said and Divers other Dayes and times as well before as after was and is Tortured Afflicted Pined Consumed wasted and Tormented and also for sundrey other Acts of witchcraft by said Elizabeth How Committed and Done before and since that time, agt the Peace of our Sovereigne Lord and Lady the King and Queen, and against the forme of the Statute in that case made and Provided.

Mary Wolcott Jurat,	Joseph Andrews & wife
Ann Putnam Jurat,	Sarah Jurat
Abigail Williams	Jno. Sherrin Jurat.
Sam <sup>ll</sup> Pearly & wife	Jos. Safford Jurat
Ruth. Jurat	ffrancis Lane Jurat.
Abraham ffoster wife Jurat	Jsack Cumins Jun <sup>r</sup> Jurat.

TIMOTHY PERLEY & DEBORAH PERLEA V.

ELIZABETH HOW.

the first of iune 1692. the deposition of timothi Perley and Deborah Perley his wife, timoth Perley aged about 39 and his wife about 33 there being som differance betwene goode how

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\*In the Fowler MSS. at the Essex Institute is another indictment dated May 29, 1692, on account of Marcy Lewis.

that is now seised namely Elizabeth How wife of James How Jun<sup>r</sup> and timothi Perli abouesaид about som bords the night folowing thereof our cous lay out and finding of them the next morning we went to milk them and one of them did not give but two or thre spoone fuls of milk and one of the other cous did not give above halfe a Pinte and the other gave abouete a quart and these cous used to give three or four quarts at a meale two of thes cous continued to giue litle or nothig four or five meals and yet thai went in a good inglesh pasture and within four dais the cous gave ther full proportion of milk that thai used to give.

further deborah Perley testifieth and as concerning hanah Perley Samuel Perleys daughter that was so sore afflicted her mother and she coming to our house hanah Perley being sudinli scared and s<sup>d</sup> ther's that woman she goes into the oven and out againe and then fell into a dredful fit and when J have asked her when she said that woman what woman she ment she tould me ieams hows wife sometime hanah Perley went along with me to ieams hows an sone fell into a fitt goode how was ueri loving to her and when the garl and J came away i asked whi she talked so of goode How being she was so louing to her she tould me that if i were afflicted as she was that i would talk as bad of her as she did at another time i saw goode how and hanah Perley together and thai were veri louing together and after goode How was gone i asked her whi she was so louing to goode how when thai were together she tould me that she was afraide to doe other wise for then goode how would kil her.

deborah Perley.

Timothy Pearly And Deborah his wife declared to y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest to all of y<sup>e</sup> above written evidence, on this side of this paper, that it is y<sup>e</sup> truth upon oath: June 30<sup>th</sup>

SAM<sup>1</sup> PERLEY & UX V. ELIZABETH HOW.

the first of iune 1692. the deposition of Samuel Perley and his wife aged abouete 52 an his wife about 46 years of age we hauing a dafter about ten years of age being in a sorowful condition this being sone after a faling out thai had bene

between ieams how and his wife and and myself our daughter told us that it was ieams hows wife that afflicted her both night and day sometimes complaining of being Pricked with Pins and sometimes faling down into dredfull fits and often sai i could never afflict a dog as goode how afflicts me mi wife and i did often chide her for naming goode how being loth her name shold be defamed but our daughter would tell us that though we would not beleue her now yet you wil know it one day we went to several docters and thai tould us that she was under an evil hand our daughter tould us that when she came nere the fire or water this witch Puls me in and was often soreli burnt and she would tel us what cloaths she wore and would sai there she goes and there she goes & now she is gone into the ouen and at these sights faling down into dredful fits and thus our daughter continuing about two or three years constantli affrming to the last that this goode how that is now seised was the cause of her sorows and so Pined a wai to Skin and bone and ended her sorrowful life, and this we can atest vpon oath nith Perleys mark

Sam<sup>ll</sup> Pearly and his wife declared y<sup>e</sup> above written to be y<sup>e</sup> truth upon oath, after this the abouesaid goode how had a mind to ioyn to ipswich church thai being unsatisfied sent to us to bring in what we had against her and when we had declared to them what we knew thai see cause to Put a Stop to her coming into the Church within a few days after J had a cow wel in the morning as far as we knew this cow was taken strangli runing about like a mad thing a litle while and then run into a great Pon—and drouned herself and as sone as she was dead mi sons and miself towed her to the shore and she stunk so that we had much a doe to flea her. As for the time of our daughters being taken ill it was in the yere of our lord 1682.

Sam<sup>ll</sup> Pearly Declared to ye Jury of inquest that all ye above written is y<sup>e</sup> truth upon oath, June 30<sup>th</sup> 92.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS FOR ELIZABETH HOW.

The testimony of Samuel Phillips aged about 67, minister of the word of God in Rowly, who sayth, that mr payson (minister of gods word alsoe in Rowley) and myself went,

being desired to Samuel pearly of ipswich to se theire young daughter who was viseted with strang fitts and in her fitts (as her father and mother affirmed) did mention good wife How the wife of James How Junior of Ipswich, as if she was in the house and did afflict her: when we were in the house the child had one of her fitts but made noe mention of goodwife how: and when the fitt was over and she came to herself, goodwife how, went to the child and took her by the hand and askt her whether she had ever done her any hurt And she answered noe never and if J did complain of you in my fitts J knew not, that J did soe: J further can affirm vpon oath that young Samuel Pearly, Brother to the afflicted girle looking out of a chamber window (I and the afflicted child being without dores together) and sayd to his sister say goodwife How is a witch, say she is a witch, and the child spake not a word that way, but I lookt up to the window where the youth stood and rebuked him for his boldness to stir up his sister to accuse the said goodw: How when as she had cleared her from doing any hurt to his sister in both our hearing, and J added no wonder that the child in her fitts did mention Goodwife How, when her nearest relations were soe frequent in expressing theire suspitions in the childs hearing when she was out of her fitts that the sayd Goodwife How, was an Instrument of mischief to the child.

Rowley 3 June 1692.

Samuel Phillips.

I Edward Paision of ye Towne aboves<sup>d</sup> tho' present at y<sup>e</sup> place and time afores<sup>d</sup> yet cannot evidence in all the particulars mentioned: Thus much is yet in my remembrance, viz<sup>t</sup> being in ye aboves<sup>d</sup> Pearleys house some considerable time before ye s<sup>d</sup> Goodw How came in: their Afflicted Daughter upon something that her mother spake to her with tartness, presently fell into one of her usual strange fitts, during which she made no mention (as I observed) of ye above s<sup>d</sup> How her name, or any thing relating to her, sometime after, the s<sup>d</sup> How came in, when s<sup>d</sup> Girl had recovered her capacity, her fitt being over s<sup>d</sup> How took s<sup>d</sup> Girl by ye hand, asked her whether she had ever done her any hurt? y<sup>e</sup> child answered no never: with several expressions to y<sup>t</sup> purpose which I am not able particularly to recount, &c,

Rowley, June 3 1692.

Edward Paision.

## DEBORAH HADLEY V. ELIZABETH HOW.

The Deposition of Debory Hadley aged about 70 yeares: this Deponant testifieth and saith that I have lived near to Elizabeth How (ye wife of James How Junior of Ipswich) 24 year and have found her a Neighbourly woman Consciencious in her dealing, fatthfull to her pmises and Christianlike in her Conversation so far as I have observed and further saith n<sup>t</sup>

June 24. 1692.

Deborah Hadley.

DANIEL WARNER JOHN WARNER & SARAH WARNER  
FOR ELIZABETH HOW.

from Jpswich Ju y<sup>e</sup> 25: 1692. this may certify hom it may conserne we being desired to wright some thing in y<sup>e</sup> behalfe of y<sup>e</sup> wife of Jeams how Junior of Ipswich hoe is apprehended upon susspition of being gilty of ye Sin witchcraft and now in Salem prisson upon ye same acount for ouer oun partes we haue bin well aquainted w<sup>t</sup> hur for aboue twenty yeers we never see but y<sup>t</sup> she cared it very wel and y<sup>t</sup> both her wordes and actions wer always such as well become a good cristian: we ofte spake to her of some things y<sup>t</sup> wer reported of hur y<sup>t</sup> gave some susspition of y<sup>t</sup> she is now charged w<sup>t</sup> and she always professing hur Inosency y<sup>r</sup> in offen desiring our prayers to god for hur y<sup>t</sup> god would keep hur in his fear and y<sup>t</sup> god would support her under hur burdin we have often herd hur Speaking of thos persons y<sup>t</sup> raisd thos reports of hur and we never heerd hur Speake badly of y—for ye same, but in ouer hering hath often said y<sup>t</sup> she desired god that he would santify y<sup>t</sup> affliction as well as others for hur spiritual good.

Daniel Warner sen<sup>r</sup> John Warner sen<sup>r</sup>SIMON CHAPMAN & MARY CHAPMAN FOR  
ELIZABETH HOW.

Ipswich June the 25<sup>th</sup>, 1652. The testimony of Simon Chapman agid About 48 years testifieth and sayth that he

hath ben Acquainted with the wiuef of James how iunr as a naybar for this 9 or 10 yers and he never saw any harm by hur but that That hath bin good for J found hur Joust Jn hur delling faythfooll too hur promicisis I haue had ocation to be in the compiny of good wief howe by the fortnight to-gathar at Thayar hous: and at othar times and I found at all Tims by hur discors shee was a woman of afliktion and mourning for sin in hur selves And othars and when she met with eny Afliktion she semid to iostifi god and say that Itt was all better that she dessusid that it war. By falls aquas-  
sations from men and she yust To bles god that she got good by afliktions for it med hur exsamin hur oun hart. I neuar herd hur refil any person that hath akusid hur with wichcraft but pittied them and sayid i pray god for giue them for thay harm them selves more then me Tho i am a gret sinar yit i am cler of that sayid she and such Kind of afliktions doth but set me a exsamining my oun hart and J find God wondarfol-  
ly seportining me and comforting me by his word and pro-  
miss she semid to be a woman thron in that gret work of  
conuiktion and conuertion which J pray god mak us all.

Simon Chapman

my wiuef Mary Chapman cane Testifi to the most of this  
abou retan as witnes my hand

Mary Chapman.

#### ISAAC CUMMINS SR v. ELIZABETH HOW.

Jvn. 27. 1692. The disposition of Isaac commins syne<sup>r</sup>  
aged about sixty years or thare abouts who testyfyeth and  
saith that about aight yers agon James how ivn<sup>r</sup> of ipswech  
came to my hous to borow a hors J not being at home my  
son isaac, told him as my son told me whan i cam home i  
hade no hors to ride on bot my son isaac did tell the said how  
that his father hade no hors to ride on but he hade a mare  
the which he thought his father wvold not be wiling to lend  
this being vpon a thvrsday the next day being fryday J took  
the mare and my self and my wif did ride on this maer abvte  
half a mile to an naighbours hovs and home again and when  
we came home J tvrned the maer out the maer being as well  
to my thinking as ever she was next morning it being sater-

day abovt sun rising this said maer stood neer my doore and the said maer as i did aperchend did show as if she had bin much abvsed by riding and her flesh as J thovg mvch wasted and her mouth mvch semenly to my aperehantion mvch abvsed and hvrt with y<sup>e</sup> bridel bits J seing ye maer in svch a sad condition J toke vp the said maer and pot her into my barn and she wold eate no maner of thing as for provender or ary thing w<sup>e</sup> i gave her then J sent for my brother thomas andros which was living in boxford the said Anderos came to my hovs, J not being at home when J came home a letil afore night my brother andros told me he head giving the said mear sonthing for the bots bvt as he coold pvrseve it did do her no good bvt said he J cannot tell but she may have the baly ach and said he i wil try one thing more my brother andros said he wold take a pipe of tobaco and lite it and pot itt in to the fvndement of the mare I told him that I thought it was not lawfvl he said it was lawfvl for man or beast then I toke a clen pipe and filled it with tobaco and did lite it and went with the pipe lite to the barn then the said andros vsed the pipe as he said before he wold and the pipe of tobaco did blaze and bvrn blew then I said to my brother andros you shall try no more it is not lawfvl he said I will try again once mor which he did and then thar arose a blaze from the pipe of tobaco which seemed to me to cover the bvtocks of the said mear the blaz went vp ward towards the roof of the barn and in the roof of the barn thar was a grate crackling as if the barn wold have falen or bin bvrnt which semed so to vs which ware within and som that ware with ovt and we hade no other fier in the barn bvt only a candil and a pipe of tobaco and then J said I thought my barn or my mear must goe the next day being Lords day J spoke to my brother andros at noone to come to see the said mear and said andros came and what he did J say not the same Lords day at night my naighbour John Hvnkins came to my hovs and he and J went into my barn to see this mear said hvnkins said and if I ware as you i wold cut of a pece of this mear and burn it J said no not to day bvt if she lived til to morrow morning he might cut of a pece off of her and bvrn if he wold presentely as we hade spoken these words we stept ovt of the barn and emedeiatly this said mear fell down

dade and never stvred as we coold pvrseve after she fell down  
but lay dead.

Jsa<sup>c</sup> Comings sen<sup>r</sup> declared to ye Jury of Inquest that ye  
above written evidence is ye truth upon oath June 30<sup>th</sup>  
1692.

JOSEPH KNOWLTON FOR ELIZABETH C. HOW.

from Ipswich June 27, 1692. Joseph knoulton being ac-  
quainte with the wife of James How Jun<sup>r</sup> as a neighbour and  
somtims bording in the house, and at my first coming to  
live in those parts which was about ten years ago J hard a  
bad Report of her about Samuell perleys garle which caused  
me to take speshall noates of her life and conversation ever  
sence and I have asked her if she could freely forgive them  
that Raised such Reports of her she tould me yes with all  
her heart desiering that God would give her a heart to be  
more humble vnder such a prouidences and further she sayd  
she was willing to doe any good she could to them as had  
don vnneighbourly by her also this I have taken notes of  
that she would deny herself to doe a neighbour a good turn  
and also J have known her to be faithfull in her word and  
honest in her dealeings as fare as ever I saw

Joseph knoulton aged forty tu  
mary knowlton aged thury tu

JAMES HOW SEN<sup>r</sup> FOR ELIZABETH HOW.

information for Elizebeth How the wife of James How  
Jun<sup>r</sup> Jams How Sen<sup>r</sup> aged about 94 sayth that he liuing by  
her for about thirty years hath taken notes that she hath car-  
ried it well becoming her place as a daughter as a wife in all  
Relation setting a side humain infurmitys as becometh a  
Christian with Respect to myself as a father very dutyfully  
and a wifife to my son uery Carefull loveing obedient and  
kind considering his want of eye sight tenderly leading him  
about by the hand now desiering god may guide your hon-  
ours to se a differans between predigous and Consentes. I  
Rest yours to Sarve                   James How sen<sup>r</sup> of Ipswich.

Dated this 28 day of June 1692.

## ISAAC CUMMINS JR V. ELIZABETH HOW.

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1692. The testimony of Jsack Comings Juner aged about 27 years Testifieth and saith y<sup>e</sup> James Hough Juner came to my fathers house when he was not at home he asked me if my father had ever a hors and J told him no he asked me if he had Ever a maer and I told him yesh he asked me if J thought my father would lend him his maer and J told him J did not Think he would vpon w<sup>ch</sup> in a short Tyme after my father and mother Ridd their maer to Their Neighbours house y<sup>e</sup> same maer w<sup>ch</sup> sd hough would have Borrowed w<sup>ch</sup> semingly was well when my fath<sup>r</sup> and moth<sup>r</sup> came home J seeing ye same s<sup>d</sup> maer y<sup>e</sup> next morning could Judge noe other butt y<sup>t</sup> she had been Rid ye other part of y<sup>t</sup> night or oth<sup>r</sup> ways horribly abused vpon w<sup>ch</sup> my fath<sup>r</sup> seeing w<sup>t</sup> a condition his maer was in sent for his Broth<sup>r</sup> Thomas Andros w<sup>ch</sup> when he came he gin her seuerall Things w<sup>ch</sup> he Thought to be good for her butt did her not any good uppon w<sup>ch</sup> he said he would try one thing moer w<sup>ch</sup> was a pipe and some Tobaco w<sup>ch</sup> he applied to her Thinking itt might doe her good against ye Belly ake Thinking y<sup>t</sup> might be her discease w<sup>ch</sup> when they vsed y<sup>e</sup> pipe w<sup>th</sup> Tobaco in itt abought y<sup>e</sup> sd maer y<sup>e</sup> pipe being Litt itt Blazed so much y<sup>t</sup> itt was as much as two persons could putt itt ought w<sup>th</sup> both of Their hands, vpon w<sup>ch</sup> my father said we will Trye no more brother my vnkle s<sup>d</sup> he would trye once more y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> he did ye pipe being Litt ye fyed Blazed out of ye same s<sup>d</sup> pipe more vehemently than before vpon w<sup>ch</sup> my father answered he had Rather Loose his maer yn his barn ye uery next night follo—ing ye sd maer folloing my father in his barn from one side to ye other side fell down imediately Dead against ye sell of ye Barn before my fath<sup>r</sup> had well cleared him selfe from her—furth<sup>r</sup> saith not.

## MARY CUMMINGS V. ELIZABETH HOW.

Jvn 27. 1692. The disposition of mary commings y<sup>e</sup> wif of isaac commins sen<sup>r</sup> aged aboot sixty yers or thare abovts testeifieth and saith my husband not being at home J was sent to by som parsons of ipsweg sent to me for to have me

to write what J could say of James how ivn<sup>r</sup> his wife elsebeth conscarning her life or conversation and that J woold say what I cold say for or against her when the said hows wife sought to aibyn with ythe church at ipsweg and I spoke to my son Isaac to write that we hade vsed no brimston nor oyl nor no combystables to give to our mear becavs thare was a report that the said hows wife hade said that we hade given the mear brim brimston and oyl and the like and a short time after J hade written my testimony consarning this hows wife my son Isaac his maer was missing that he coold not find her in to or thre days and in a short time after my son Isaacs maer came in sight not fare from the hovs and my son isaac praid me to go ovt and look on his maer when J came to her he asked me what J thought on her and J said if he wold have my thoughts i could not compair it nothing else but that she was riden with a hot bridil for she hade di- virses broses as if she had bin runing over rocks an mvch wronged and where the bridil went was as if it had been burnt with a hot bridil then J bide Jsaac take y<sup>e</sup> mare and have her vp amongst the naghbors that peopl might see her for I hered that James how iun<sup>r</sup> or his wife or both hade said that we kept vp ovr maer that popel might not see her and isaac did show his maer to saveril and then the said how as i hered did report that isac had riden to Sin spring and caryed his gairl and so fvrfited the maer the which was not so.

Mary Comins owned this har testimony to be truth before the Juryes for Inquest this 29 of June 1692

Jurat in Curia.

Jvn 27, 1692. J mary comins ageed aboxt sixty yers or thar aboxts the wife of isaac comins syne<sup>r</sup> J being at my neighbour Samul parlys hovs samvel parlys davgter hannah being in a straing condition asked me if J did not see godee how in the hovs going round vpon the wall as the gvrl di- rected her finger along rovnd in won place and another of the hovs J teled her no J loked as diligently as i cold and i covld see nothing of her the gorls mother then did chek her and told her she was alwas fvll of svch kind of notions and bid her hold her tovng then she told her mother she wold belive it one day and somthing mor which shold have bin mantioned as the garl poyned to show me whare goode how

was she asked me if J did not se her go ovt at that crak which she poyned at Mary Comins owned this har testimony one her oath to be the truth before the Juriars of Inquest this 29 of June 92. Jurat in Curia

Jvn 27, 1692. The disposition of Mary commins aged about sixty yers or there aboots ho testefieth and saith that above too yerers agon J went to viset my naibovr sherins wife and she told me that James how ivn<sup>r</sup> had bin thare to give her a viset and he did sharply talk to her asking her what hopes she hade of her salveation her answer was to him that she did bild her hopes vpon that sver rock Jesus christ this the said serins wife did tell me and she told me also that she had never talked of the said how or his wife bot she was the wors for it afterwards, and she said also when she lay sick of the same sikness whareof she dyed that the said how would come som times into the roome to see her but she covld not tell how to bare to se him nor that he shovld be in the hovs.

Mary Comins owned that this har testimony on har oath before the Juryars for Jnques, this 29 of June. 1692.

Jurat in Curia.

#### FRANCIS LANE V. ELIZABETH HOW.

Francis Lane aged 27 yeares testifyeth and saith that about seauen yeares agoe James How the husband of Elizabeth How of Ipswich farmes hired s<sup>d</sup> Lane to get him a parcell of posts and railes and s<sup>d</sup> Lane hired John Pearly the son of Samuell Pearly of Ipswich to help him in getting of them And after they had got said Posts and railes, the said Lane went to the said James How that he might goe with him and take delivery of said Posts and railes, and Elizabeth How the wife of s<sup>d</sup> James how told said Lane that she did not beleue that sd Posts and railes would doe because that s<sup>d</sup> John Pearly helped him and she said that if he had got them alone and had not got John Pearly to help him she beleived beleived that they would have done but seing that said Pearly had helped about them she believed that they would not doe, so s<sup>d</sup> James How went with said Lane for to take deliuery of

s<sup>d</sup> Posts and railes and the s<sup>d</sup> James How toke severall of the said railes as they lay in heaps up by the end and they broke of, so many of them broke that said Lane was forced to get thirty or forty more and when said How came home he told his wife thereof and she said to him that she had told him before that they would not doe because said Pearly helped about them which railes said Lane testifyeth that in his Apprehention were good sound railes.

ffrancis Lane declared to ye Jury of inques to ye truth of y<sup>e</sup> above written evidence upon oath June 30<sup>th</sup> 1692.

Jurat in Curia.

JOHN HOW v. ELIZABETH HOW.

The Testimony of John How aged about 50 yers saith that one that day that my brother James his wife was Caried to Salem farmes upon examination she was at my house and would a have had me to go with her to Salem farmes J tould hur: that if she had ben sent for vpon allmost any aCount but witchcraft J would a have gone with her bvt one that aCount I would not for ten pounds, but said I If you are a witch tell me how long you have ben a witch and what mischeve you have done and then J will go with you for said I to her you have ben acusied by Samuell pearleys Child and suspected by Daken Cumins for witchcraft: she semed to be aingry with me, stell asked me to come on the morow I told hur I did not know but I might com to morow but my ocashons caled me to go to Ipswich one the morow and came whome a bout sun saet and standing nere my door talking with one of my Naibours, I had a sow with six small pigs in the yard the sow was as well so fare as I know as ever one a suding she leaped up about three or four foot hie and turned about and gave one squeake and fell downe daed I told my naibour that was with me I thought my sow was bewitched for saied I think she is daed he lafed at me but It proued true for she fell downe daed he bed me cut of hur eare the which I did and my hand I had my knif in was so numb and full of paine that night and sauerall days after that I could not doe any work and is not wholy wall now and I suspected no other person but my s<sup>d</sup> sister Elizabeth How.

Cap<sup>t</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> How declared ye above written evidence to be ye truth before ye Jury of inquest. June 30<sup>th</sup> 1692. upon his oath in court.

JACOB FOSTER V. ELIZABETH HOW.

The deposion of Jacob foster aged about 29 yeares this deponant saith that some years agoe good wife How the wife of James how was a bout to Joyne with the church of Ipswich My father was an instrumentall means of her being denyed admision quickly after my mare was turned out to grass on the tuesday and on thursday J went to seek my mare to go to lecture I sought my mare and could not find her I sought all friday and found her not on Saturday I sought till noon and I found my mare standing leaning with her butocks against a tree I hit her with a small whip she gave a heave from a tree and fell back to the tree again then I took off her fetters and struck her again she did the same again then J set my shoulder to her side and thrust her of from the tree and moued her feet then she went home and leapt into the pausture and my mare lookt as if she had been miserably beaten and abused Jacob ffoster declared ye evidence to be ye truth before ye Jury of inquest, on oath June 30. 92.

JOSEPH SAFFORD V. ELIZABETH HOW.

The deposition of Joseph Safford aged about 60, he testeyeth and saith that my wife was much afraid of Elizabeth how the wife of James how upon the Reports that were of her about Samuell perlleys child but upon a tim after thes Reportes James how and his wife coming to my house neither myselfe nor my wife were at home and goodwife how asked my children wher ther mother was and they said at the next nayboaers hovs she disired them to Coll ther mother which they did, when my wife cam whom my wife told me that she was much startled to se goode how but she took her by the hand and said goode Safford, J belieue that you are not ignorant of the grete scandall that I Ly under upon the euill Report that is Raised upon me about Samuell perlleys child and other things Joseph Safford saith that after this his

wife was taken beyond Rason and all parswasion to tek the part of this woman after this the wife of this Jams how pro-pounded herselfe to com into the church of Ipswich wherupon sum objection aRose by sum unsatisfied brethren wherupon ther was a meeting apointed by our elders of the church to consider of things brought in against her my wife was more then ordenary ernist to goe to Lectur the church meeting being on that day notwithstanding the many arguments I used to perswed her to the Contrery yet I obtained a promis of her that she would not goe to the church meeting but meeting with som of the naybourhood they perswaded her to go with them to the church meeting at eldar pains and told her that she need<sup>d</sup> say nothing ther, but goodwife how then being Rether Rendred guilty than cleared my wife took her by the hand after meeting and told her though she wer condemned before men she was Justefyed befor god, the next Sabath after this my son that caried my wife to Lectur was taken aftar a strang manar the Saturday aftar that my wife was taken after a Raving frenzy manar expresing in a Raging manar that goode how must Com into the church and that shee was a precious saint and though shee wer condemned befor men shee was Justefyed befor god and continued in this fram for the space of thre or four hours after that my wife fell into a kind of a tranc for the spac of two or thre minits shee then coming to herselfe opened her eye and said ha J was mistaken no answer was med by the standars by, and again shee said ha J was mistaken major appletons wife standing by said wherein art mistaken J was mistaken said she for I thought goode how had bene a precious saint of god but now I see she is a witch for shee hath bewitched mee and my child and we shall neuer be well till ther is tes-temoney for her that she may be taken into the church, after this ther was a meeting of the eldars at my hous and thay de-sired that goode how might be at the meeting insign wallis went with myselfe to inuite goode how to this meeting she coming in discours at that time shee said two or thre times shee was sory to se my wife at the church meeting at eldar pains after this shee said she was afflicted by the aparishtion of goode how a few dayes after she was taken shee said the caus of her changing her opinion consarning goode how was

becaus shee apeared to her throug a creuic of the clam-bouerds which she knew no good person could do and at thre seuerall tims after was afflicted by the aperishtion of goode how and goode olleuer and furdir this deponit saith that Rising erly in the moring and kindling a fir in the other Room in wife shricked out I presently Ran into the room wher my wife was and as soon as euer I opened the dore my said ther be the evill one take them wherupon I Replyed whar are they I will take them if I can shee said you will not tak them and then sprang out of the bed herselfe and went to the window and said tha they went out thay wer both bigger than she and thay went out ther but she could not then J Replyed who be thay she said goode how and goode olleuer goode olleuer said J you never saw the woman in your Life no said she I never saw her in my Life but so she is Represented to me goode ollever of Sallam that hurt william stace of Sallam the millar.

Joseph Safford declared to ye Jury of inquest that ye evidence above written and on ye other side of this paper is ye truth upon oath,

June 30<sup>th</sup> 1692.      Jurat in Curia.

THOMAS ANDREWS V. ELIZABETH HOW.

July 1<sup>st</sup> 1692.

The Testimony of Thomas Andrews of Boxford aged about 50 years this deponent Testifieth and saith y<sup>t</sup> Jsaak Comings, senio<sup>r</sup> of Topsfield sent for me to help a mare y<sup>t</sup> was not well and when I came thare y<sup>e</sup> mare was in such a condition y<sup>t</sup> I could not tell w<sup>t</sup> she ailed for J never sawe ye like her lips ware exceedingly swelled y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Jnsides of Them Turned outward and Looked Black and blew and gelled, her Tung was in ye same Condition J told ye said Comings I could not tell w<sup>t</sup> to doe for her J perceived she had not ye Botts w<sup>ch</sup> J did att first think she had butt J said she might have some great heat in her Body and I would applie a pipe of Tobacco to her and y<sup>t</sup> was concentered to and I litt a pipe of Tobaco and putt it vnder her fundiment and there come a Blew flame out of ye Bowle and Run along ye stem of s<sup>d</sup> pipe and took hold of ye haer of s<sup>d</sup> maer and Burnt itt and we tryed

itt 2 or 3 times together and itt did ye some itt seemed to Burn Blew butt Run Liki fyer y<sup>t</sup> is sett on ye grass to Burn itt in ye spring Tyme and we struck itt outt w<sup>th</sup> ou<sup>r</sup> hands and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Comings s<sup>d</sup> y<sup>t</sup> he would trye no more for s<sup>d</sup> he J Rather loose my mare y<sup>n</sup> my barn and J this deponant doe testifi y<sup>t</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> Best of my vnderstanding was y<sup>e</sup> same mare y<sup>t</sup> James Hough Junior Belonging to Ipswich farmes husband to Elizabeth Hough would have have Borrowed of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Comings.

Tho. Andrews.

NEHEMIAH ABBOT V. ELIZABETH HOW.

The testimony of Nahamiah Abot Aged about 60 yers: saith that after any difrencis with James Hows wif elizabeth how ofen Euill a curents did falow Som Straing loses I met withall amongst our catill: I had one ox got into thair fild and James Hows wife was very aingry and wished he was Choked and Some Short time after his falow was choked with a turnop: and goodwif hows dafter come to borow my hors but I could not spare him: and the day after my hors was Cast in the barne with his head under him as my Sar-vants tould me and I went and saw the plac whair he lay and I had a kow was so wake and Lame y<sup>t</sup> she could not go with out the halp of thre or four men to hold hur up and I put hur in my barne and put up the Raills to kep hur from other catill and about one ouer after the kow was gone the Raills being up and was in the mier a bout forty Rods of and I was forst to gat the same halpe to get hur thathir againe.

Nehemiah Abbot: declared: to: y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest: y<sup>e</sup> above written to: be y<sup>e</sup> truth: upon oath: June: 30: 1692.

Jurat in Curia

[Reverse] Nathan Abot.

*Essex Institute MSS.*

The deposition of Sarah Andrew of Boxford aged 27 years about Seuen yeares Since going to see my Sister Hannah Pearly of Ipswich ffarmes who was in a Strange Condicon Sick of fitts & y<sup>e</sup> Like She told me when Shee came out of her fitts that it was Eliz. How wife to James How Jun<sup>r</sup> of Ips-

wich ffarmes that Hurtt her & that She would feign throw her into y<sup>e</sup> fire & into y<sup>e</sup> water & y<sub>t</sub> though her father had Corrected her for charging So pious a woman yet she was sure twas true & should stand to it to her death

Sworn in Court June 2<sup>d</sup> 1692

Attest St. Sewall Cler.

*Massachusetts Historical Society MSS.*  
*Witchcraft MSS. p. 23.*

The deposition of Sarah beber aged 36 years testafaths and saith the day that elizabeth how was examnd I saw her hurt elezabeth hubbart and ann putnam and abagel williams and emediately she fell apon me and Choked me and threw me down and hurt one of my leags uery much and elizabeth how did aflicte mary walcot sewerall tims and one the day of har examination

Sarah Vibber owned to y<sup>e</sup> Jury of inquest y<sup>e</sup> above written to be a true evidence of hers:: upon oath June 30<sup>th</sup> 1692

Jurat in Curia

*Massachusetts Historical Society MSS.*  
*Witchcraft MSS. p. 22.*

[MICHAELL DUNELL. The constable of Salem, Joseph Herrick sen. deposed that on Mar. 1, 1691-2 he received a warrant to take Sarah Good, accused of witchcraft, to the Ipswich goal and "that night I sett a gard to watch her at my own house, namely Samu<sup>l</sup> Braybrook, Michaell Dunell [of Topsfield] and Jonathan Baker."]

[DANIEL CLARKE of Topsfield, was summonsed by Joseph Andrews, constable of Boxford, to appear at Court in Salem in September, 1692, to testify in the trials of Mary Easty and Sarah Cloyce, accused of witchcraft.]

Salem May 12<sup>th</sup> J mittimas w<sup>ch</sup> went May 13<sup>th</sup> to Boston.

1. George Jacobs sen <sup>r</sup>	7. Sarah Wild
2. Giles Cory	8. Mary L <sup>t</sup> Nath put-
3. W <sup>m</sup> Hobs	nam's negro
4. Edw <sup>d</sup> Bushop	9. Mary English

5.	Sarah Bushop his } wife }	10. Allice parker
6.	Bridget Bushop alias Oliuer	11. Ann pudeater
		Jn Salem prison
	Easty	Margaret Jacobs
	Del'r Hobs	Abigail Soames
	Abigail Hobs	Rebeca Jacobs
	Mary Warren	Sarah Buckley
	Churchwell	Mary Witheridge

sent to Boston munday the 23<sup>d</sup> 1692.

Mary Easty Abigaile Soames  
Susannah Rootes Mary Derich  
Sarah Bassett Benjamin procter  
Eliz. Cary

Ittm. for making four pairs of Iron fetters and two  
pairs of hand Cuffs and putting them on to y<sup>e</sup> legs and hands  
of Goodwife Cloys, estes, Bromidg and Green all at one  
pound alien shillings money £ s. d.

This work was done by order from authority Requiring me thereunto

attest Rob<sup>tt</sup> Lord Smith.

PETITION OF ISAAC ESTEV AND OTHERS.

Pet<sup>on</sup> of Ira Faulkner &<sup>c</sup>

To his Excellency the Goverour, and Councill, and Representatives, now in Generall Court Assembled: at Boston:

The Petition of severall of the Inhabitants of Andover,  
Salem village & Topsfield, humbly sheweth:

That whereas in the year 1692 some of your Petitioners and the near Relations of others of them, viz: Rebecca Nurse, Mary Estey, Abigail Faulkner, Mary Parker, of Andover, John Procter & Elizabeth his wife: Elizabeth How, Samuell Wardwell & Sarah his wife: were accused of Witchcraft by certain possessed persons, and thereupon were apprehended and Imprisoned, and at a Court held at Salem

were condemned upon the evidence of the aforesaid possessed persons: and sentence of Death hath been executed on them (except Abigail Faulkner, Elizabeth Procter & Sarah Wardwell) of whose Innocency those that knew them are well satisfyed. And whereas the invalidity of the aforesaid evidence and the great wrong which (through Errors & mistakes in those tryalls) was then done hath since plainly appear'd, which we doubt not but this Hono<sup>r</sup> Court is sensible of: Your Petitioners being dissatisfyed and grieved, that (besides what the aforesaid condemned persons have sufferred in their persons and Estates) their Names are Exposed to Infamy and reproach, while their Tryall & condemnation stands upon Publick Record: We therefore humbly Pray this Hono<sup>r</sup> Court, that something may be Publickly done to take off Infamy from the names, and memory of those who have suffered as aforesaid, that none of their surviving Relations, nor their Posterity may suffer reproach upon that account. And yo<sup>r</sup> Petitioner shall ever pray &c.—

Dated March 2<sup>d</sup> 170<sup>2</sup>

Francis Faulkner	Abigail How
Abigail Faulkner	Isaac Estey
Phebe Robinson	Samuel Nurse
Samuel Wardwel	John Tarbel
Sarah Wardwel	John Nurse
John Parker	Peter Cloys Sen <sup>r</sup>
Joseph Parker	Isaac Estey Jun <sup>r</sup>
Nathaniel Dane	Sarah Gill
Francis Dane	Rebecca Preston
Mary Hoar	Thorndick Procter
	Benjamin Procter

In the House of Representatives March 18<sup>th</sup> 1702. Read and sent up.

*Mass. Archives Vol. 135, p. 108.*

#### ORDER FOR REVERSAL OF ATTAINER.

That a bill be brought in to acquit mary falknar and the other present petitioners severally of the penalties to which they are lyable upon the Conviction and judgments on the said Courts and Estate them in their just Cred't and reputa-

tion as if no such judgment had been had.

In Council, July 21, 1703. Agreed to die p<sup>r</sup> dict. Agreed to

Order for bringing in a bill to reverse the attainder of Abig<sup>a</sup> Faulkner &c of Witchcraft.

In the House of Represenatives

July 21<sup>th</sup> 1703.

In Answer to the Petitions of Abigail Faulkner, and Sundry of the Inhabitants of Andover, in the behalfe of Sundry persons in and late of s<sup>d</sup> Town, & elsewhere, who in the year 1692 were Jndicted, accused, and Condemned, & many of them Executed for the crime of Felony by witchcraft. And whereas it is Conceived by many worthy and pious Persons that the Evidence given against many of the s<sup>d</sup> condemned Persons was weak and insufficient as to Taking away the lives of Sundry so condemned &c. Wherefore it is thought meet and it is hereby Ordered, That a Bill be drawn up for Preventing the like Procedure for the future, and that no spectre Evidence may hereafter be accounted valid, or sufficient to take away the life, or good name, of any Person or Persons within this Province, and that the Infamy, and Reprach, cast on the names and Posterity of the s<sup>d</sup> accused and Condemned Persons may in Some meesure be Roll'd away

Sent up for Concurrence. Jam<sup>s</sup> Converse Speaker.

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. 109.*

#### PETITION OF REV. JOSEPH CAPEN AND OTHERS.

Petition of Sundry Ministers referring to persons condemn<sup>d</sup> for witchcraft. read July 8<sup>th</sup> 1703.

To his Excellency the Governor, Councill and Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in Generall Court Assembled June 1703

The Address of severall ministers of the County of Essex

Whereas in the year 1692 some of our neighbours of a good conversation, were apprehended and imprisoned upon Suspition of Witchcraft, upon the complaint of some young persons under Diabolicall molestations; and vpon their Try-

all at the Court at Salem were condemned: great weight being layd upon the evidence of the Afflicted persons, their Accusers, Sentence of Death was Executed on Severall of them, but others were Reprieved.

But Since it is apparent and hath been Acknowledged that there were Errors and mistakes in the aforesaid Tryalls: and notwithstanding the care and conscientious endeavour of the Honorable Judges to do the thing that is right: yet there is great reason to fear that Innocent persons then suffered, and that God may have a controversy with the Land upon that account.

We would therefore humbly propose to the consideration of this Honored Court, whether something may not, and ought not, to be publickly done to clear the good name and reputation of some who have suffered as aforesaid, against whom there was not as is supposed sufficient evidence to prove the guilt of such a crime, and for whom there are good grounds of charity. Some of the condemned persons aforesaid, and others in behalf of their Relations who have suffered, have lately Petitioned this Honour'd Court upon this Account. We pray that their case may be duely considered.

Thomas Barnard  
Joseph Green  
William Hubbur<sup>d</sup>  
Benjamin Rolfe

Samuel Cheever  
Zech Symmes  
Joseph Gerrish  
John Rogers  
Jabez ffitch  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Wise  
Joseph Capen  
Thomas Symmes

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1703 In Council. Read and Sent Down.

July 16<sup>th</sup> 1703. In the House of Representatives Read.

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. 110.*

#### PETITION OF ISAAC ESTEY AND OTHERS.

To his Excelency the Gouenor and ye Honarable Counsill and Genarall Asembly for y<sup>e</sup> Province of y<sup>e</sup> Massachusetts Bay in New England Conuen<sup>d</sup> at Boston May 25<sup>th</sup> 1709  
The humble Adress and motion of Seueral of y<sup>e</sup> Jnhabitants

of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Prouince some of which had their near Relation Either Parents or others who suffered Death in y<sup>e</sup> Dark and Dollful times y<sup>t</sup> past ouer this priouince in y<sup>e</sup> Year 1692 under y<sup>e</sup> Suposition and in y<sup>t</sup> Gloomy Day by Some (thought prou'd) of Being Guilty of witchcraft w<sup>ch</sup> we have all y<sup>e</sup> reson in y<sup>e</sup> wold to hope and beleive they were Jnocent off and others of us etc. Either ourselves or some of our Relations haue Been Impry<sup>on</sup> imparied and Blasted in our Reputations and Estates by Reson of ye same its not our Intent Neither Do we Reflect on y<sup>e</sup> Judges or Jurors Concern<sup>d</sup> in those Sorrowfull tryals whome we hope Did y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> they thought was Right in y<sup>t</sup> hour of Darkness but y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> we moue and pray for is y<sup>t</sup> You Would Pleas to pass some sutable Act as in Your Wisdom You may think meet and proper y<sup>t</sup> shall (so far as may be) Restore y<sup>e</sup> Reputations to y<sup>e</sup> Posterity of y<sup>e</sup> Suffurers and Remunerate them as to what they have been Damnified in their Estates thereby we Do not Without Remors and greif Recount these Sorrowful things But we Humbly Conceive y<sup>t</sup> we are Bound in Consience and Duty to God and to ourselves Relatiues and posterity and Country Humbly to make this Motion praying God to Direct You in this and all Your Weighty Consultations.

We subscribe Your Sorrowfull and Distrest Supliants

Philip English	John Tarbell	Beiamin Nurs
Joseph Estey Sen.	John Parker	John Preston
Beniamin Procter	Joseph Parker	Samuel Nurs
John Procter	John Johnson	William Rusell
Thorndik Procter	Francis Faulkner	Francis Nurs
George Jacobs	Isaac Estey	George Nurs.
William buckly	Joseph esty	
iohn Nurs	Samuel Nurs	

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. III.*

#### PETITION OF ISAAC ESTEY AND OTHERS.

Pet<sup>ion</sup> ab<sup>t</sup> the Witchcraft in 1692.

May 25, 1709.

To his Exelency the Governor and y<sup>e</sup> Honourable Counsell and Generall Assembly for ye Province of ye Massatutes Bay in New England conuened at Boston May 25, 1709

The Humble Adress and motion of several of ye Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Provin<sup>ce</sup> some of which had their near Relations either Parents or others who suffered Death in y<sup>e</sup> Dark & Dolefull times y<sup>t</sup> past over this province in ye year 1692 under y<sup>e</sup> superstition (and in y<sup>t</sup> Gloomy Day) by some thought prou'd of Being Guilty of Witchcraft w<sup>ch</sup> we have all y<sup>e</sup> Reason in y<sup>e</sup> world to hope & beleive they were Innocent of and others of us y<sup>t</sup> Either ourselves or some of our Relations have been Imprisoned impared & Blasted in our Reputations and Estates by Reason of y<sup>e</sup> same its not our Intent neither doe we Reflect on y<sup>e</sup> Judges or Jurors concern<sup>d</sup> in these Sorrowfull tryalls whome we hope did y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> they Thought was Right in y<sup>t</sup> hour of Darkness but y<sup>t</sup> which we move & pray for is y<sup>t</sup> you would Please to pass some suitable Act as in your Wisdom you may think meet & proper y<sup>t</sup> shall so far as may be Restore y<sup>e</sup> Reputations to y<sup>e</sup> Posterity of y<sup>e</sup> sufferers & Remunerate them as to what they have been Damnid in their Estates thereby: we doe not without Remors & greif Recount these sorrowful things But we Humbly conceive y<sup>t</sup> we are Bound in conscience and duty to God & to ourselves Relatives & posterity & Country Humbly to make this Motion praying God to Direct you in this & all your weighty Consultations Wee subscribe your sorrowful and Distress Supliants

Isaac Esty

Jn<sup>o</sup> Nurse

Joseph parker

Thorndick Procter

George Jacobs

In y<sup>e</sup> names & on Behalf of ourselves and several others

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. 112.*

#### STATEMENT OF ISAAC ESTEY.

Mary Easty of Topsfield Condem<sup>d</sup> & Executed.

Topsfield September 8<sup>th</sup> 1710.

Isaac Esty Sen. of Topsfield in y<sup>e</sup> county of Essex in N. E. Having been sorely exercis<sup>d</sup> through y<sup>e</sup> holy & awful providince of God depriving him of his beloved wife, Mary Esty who sufered death In ye year 1692 & under y<sup>e</sup> fearfull

odium of one of the worst of crimes yt can be laid to y<sup>e</sup> charge of mankind, as if she had been guilty of witchcraft a piece of wickedness which I belieue she did hate with perfect hatred & by all yt ever I could see by her never could see anything by her yt should give me any reason in y<sup>e</sup> least to think her guilty of anything of y<sup>t</sup> nature but am firmly persun<sup>ed</sup> yt she wer as innocent of it as any to such a shameful death. Upon conformatio[n] of a notification from y<sup>e</sup> Honord General Court desiring myself & others under like circumstances to giue some account of what my estate was dammfy<sup>d</sup> by reason of such a hellish molestation do hereby declare which may also be seen by comparing papers & records of my wife was near upon 5 months imprisoned att which time I provided maintenance for her at my own cost & charge went constantly twice a week to provide for her what she need<sup>d</sup> 3 weeks of this 5 months she was in prison at Boston & I was constrained to be at the charge of transporting her to & for So yt I can not but think my charge in time to mony might amount to 20 pounds besides my trouble & sorrow of heart in being deprive or her after such a manner which this world can never make me any compensation for.

Isaac Esty Sen. Aged about 82 years

I order & appoint my son Jacob Esty to carry this to y<sup>e</sup> Honourd Committ<sup>ee</sup> Appointed by y<sup>e</sup> Honored Generall Court to meet at Salem

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1710

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. 115.*

#### PETITION FROM MARY AND ABIGAIL HOW.

Ipswich y<sup>e</sup> 9 of September 1710

Whereas y<sup>e</sup> Honourde Generall Court haue apointed a Commyt To Consider what damig persons haue sustained in there names & effects in y<sup>e</sup> yeare 1692 by there sufferings in y<sup>t</sup> as was caled Witchcraft y<sup>e</sup> odom whereof was as if they ware y<sup>e</sup> worst of mankind viz mary hows & Abegill How: we only sruine in this famley who doe Groundedly beleive yt our honoured mother Elizabeth How suffered as innosent of ye crym charged with as any person in y<sup>e</sup> world as to y<sup>e</sup>

damieg done To our Estat we cannot giue a pertiqluer account but This we know y<sup>t</sup> our Honourd father went twise a week y<sup>e</sup> whole Tim of her Emprisonment to carey her maintaintice which was procured with much difficulty & one of us went with him becaus he could not go alone for want of sight also one jurny to boston for a Replency & for maintanance five shiling money left with her y<sup>e</sup> first coming down 20 Shiliings y<sup>e</sup> second time & forty Shillings. so y<sup>t</sup> somtimes mi son left ye neuer under fife shillings per week which we know for charge for her & nesseary charg for our selus & horses can not be less then 20 pounds mony: yet notwithstanding so y<sup>t</sup> ye nam may be Repayered we are contented if your honours shall allow us twelve pounds yours to serve.

Mary How & Abigell How

This petition was p<sup>r</sup>esented to sayd Comittee by Capt Jn<sup>o</sup> How & Abraham How vncles of s<sup>d</sup> Mary & Abigail In Relief in y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>mises & pray ye s<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup>sions may be allowed ye Sam.

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. 116.*

#### PETITION OF EPHRAIM WILDS.

Sarah Wilds of Topsfield Condemned & Executed—

Topsfelld Septem 11-1710

To the honered Jentell men of the commitey greeting: it hauing pleased the great and Jeueral Cort to a piont your honars a comitte to in quier who may be proper to bee Justified in the bill refering to the taking ofe the attainer and what loss and damedg hes been sustained by reason of the tryalls which were for witchcraft in the yer 1692 under which Soroful triall Sarah Wilds my mother suffered was condemned & Executed: my father being now disseced and only my self left I here a pere to giue in som short account of the cost and damedg we sustained in them tims: my mother was carried to Salam prison sum time in Epral we ware at the cost of it and chardg of ceping har there a considrabl whille and afterwards Shee was remoued to boston prison we wer at the cost of it and chardg of ceping hare ther for about for months and then from boston Shee was remoued back to Ipswech prison we ware at the cost of that and after a whill

she was remoued to Salam again we ware at all the Cost both of caring and prouiding for har maintance whill in all these prisons: besids Epher<sup>m</sup> my father or myself went once a wek to see how she deed and what she wanted and sometimes twis a weke which was a grat cost and damedg to our estate my father would often say that the Cost and damedg we sustained in our esteat wase twenty pounds and I am in the mind he spok les then it was: besids the los of so dere a friend which can not be mede up: all which I leue to your honers considration: I remin your honers humbel Sarur

Ephraim Willdes

Yet notwithstanding twas twenty pounds dimedg to our Estate considring our nams may be repaired J am willing to tak forten pounds

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. 118.*

#### PETITION OF WILLIAM HOBBS.

Abigail Hobbs Condemned not Executed of Topsfield—Confessed.

Topfield 13 of September 1710

Where as y<sup>e</sup> great & Honoured Court haue apointed a Comity to consider what damieg persons sufferiued in there Estates in y<sup>e</sup> yere 1692 by what thay suffered in that as was called witchcraft y<sup>e</sup> odom wherof was as y<sup>e</sup> worst of mankind: William hobs my charges And Expences Amounted to twenty pounds money besides Les of time which my damieg I think can not be less than 40 pounds: yet notwithstanding upon consideration y<sup>t</sup> our names may be Repayered Againe I am willing to take 20 pounds so leauing it to your Honour consideration I Remain your vnworthy Seruart

William Hobs.

*Mass. Archives, Vol. 135, p. 132.*

#### REVERSAL OF ATTAINER OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup> 1711.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay: Anno Regni Anna Reginæ Decimo.

An Act to reverse the attainers of George Burroughs and others for Witchcraft

Forasmuch as in the year of our Lord one Thousand six hundred ninety two several Towns within this Province were Infested with a horrible Witchcraft or posession of devils: And at a Special Court of Oyer and Termina holden at Salem in the County of Essex in the same year 1692. *George Burroughs* of Wells, *John Procter*, *George Jacobs*, *John Willard*, *Giles Core*, and Martha his wife, *Rebecca Nurse* and *Sarah Good* all of Salem aforesaid, *Elizabeth How* of Ipswich, *Mary Eastey*, *Sarah Wild* and *Abigail Hobbs* all of Topsfield, *Samuel Wardell*, *Mary Parker*, *Martha Carrier*, *Abigail Falkner*, *Anne Foster*, *Rebecca Eames*, *Mary Post* and *Mary Lacey* all of Andover, *Mary Bradbury* of Salisbury, and *Dorcas Hoar* of Beverley Were severally Indicted convicted and attainted of Witchcraft, and some of them put to death others lying still under the like sentance of the said Court and liable to have the same Executed upon them.

The Influence and Energy of the Evil Spirits so great at that time acting in and upon those who were the principal accusers and Witnesses proceeding so far as to cause a Prosecution to be had of persons of known and good reputation, which caused a great dissatisfaction and a stop to be put thereunto until theire Majesty's pleasure should be known therein: And upon a Representation thereof accordingly made her late Majesty Queen Mary the second of blessed memory by Her Royal Letter given at her Court of Whitehall the fifteenth of April 1693. was Graciously pleased to approve the care and Circumspection therein; and to Will and require that in all proceedings ag<sup>t</sup> persons accused for Witchcraft, or being possessed by the devil, the greatest Moderation and all due Circumspection be used, so far as the same may be without Impediment to the Ordinary course of Justice.

And some of the principal Accusers and Witnesses in those dark and severe prosecutions have since discovered themselves to be persons of profligate and vicious conversation.

Upon the humble Petition and suit of several of the s<sup>d</sup> persons and of the children of others of them whose Parents were Executed. Be it Declared and Enacted by his Excel-

ency the Governor Councill and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same That the several convictions Judgments and Attainders against the said *George Burroughs, John Procter, George Jacobs, John Willard, Giles Core and Martha Core, Rebecca Nurse, Sarah Good, Elizabeth How, Mary Easty, Sarah Wild, Abigail Hobbs, Samuel Wardell, Mary Parker, Martha Carrier, Abigail Falkner, Anne Foster, Rebecca Eames, Mary Post, Mary Lacey, Mary Bradbury, and Dorcas Hoar*, and every of them Be and hereby are reversed made and declared to be null and void to all Intents, Constructions and purposes whatsoever, as if no such convictions Judgments, or Attainders had ever been had or given. And that no penalties or fforfeitures of Goods or Chattels be by the said Judgments and attainders or either of them had or Incurred. Any Law Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding. And that no Sheriffe, Constable Goaler or other officer shall be Liable to any prosecution in the Law for anything they then Legally did in the Execution of their respective offices.

Made and Pass'd by the Great and General Court or Assembly of Her Majestys Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England held at Boston the 17<sup>th</sup> day of october.  
1711.

Whereas we the subscribers are Informed that His Excellency the Governoour Honourable Council, and Generall assembly of this province have been pleased to hear our Supplication and answer our Prayer in passing an act in favour of us respecting our Reputations and Estates: Which we humbly and gratefully acknowledge.

And inasmuch as it would be Chargeble and Troublesome for all or many of us to goe to Boston on this affair: Wherefore we have and do Authorize and Request our Trusty Friend the Worshipfull Stephen Sewall Esq. To procure us a Copy of the said act and to doe what may be further proper and necessary for the reception of what is allowed us and to take and receive the same for us and to Transact any other thing referring to the Premises on our Behalfe that may be requisite or Convenient. Essex. December 1711.

John Eames in behalfe of his mother Rebeca Eames	Charles Burrough eldest son
Abigael Faulkner	John Barker
Samuel Preston on behalf of his wife Sarah Preston	Lawrence Lacy
Samuel Osgood on behalf of his mother mary Osgood	Abraham Foster
Nathaniel Dane	
Joseph Wilson	
Samuel Wardwell	
John Wright	
Ebenezer Barker	
Francis Johnson on behalf of his mother	
Brother & sister Elizabeth	
Joseph Emerson on behalf of his wife martha Emerson of Hauerhill	John Johnson in behalf of his mother Rebeca Johnson & his sister
Ephraim Willds	
John Moulton on behalf of his wife Elizabeth the daughter of Giles Coree who suferd	William Barker sen <sup>r</sup>
Robert pease on behalf of his wife	Gorge Jacob on behalf of his father who suf- fered
Annies King on behalf of her mother	Thorndik Procter on behalf of his father
	John Procter who suffered
	Beniamin Procter son of the aboues <sup>d</sup>
	Doarcas hoare
	willem town
	Samuel nurs
	Jacob estei
	Edward Bishop
By his Excellency the Gouerno <sup>r</sup>	

Whereas y<sup>e</sup> Generall Assembly in their last session accepted y<sup>e</sup> report of their comitte appointed to consider of ye Damages sustained by Sundry persons prosecuted for witchcraft in y<sup>e</sup> year 1692 viz<sup>t</sup>

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Elizabeth How	12 0 0	John Procter and
George Jacobs	79 0 0	wife
Mary Eastey	20 0 0	Sarah Wild
Mary Parker	8 0 0	Mary Bradbury
George Burroughs	50 0 0	Abigail Faulkner
Giles Cory & wife	21 0 0	Abigail Hobbs
Rebecca Nurse	25 0 0	Anne Foster
John Willard	20 0 0	Rebecca Eames
Sarah Good	30 0 0	Dorcas Hoar
Martha Carrier	7 6 0	Mary Post
Samuel Wardwell & wife	36 15 0	Mary Lacey
	309 1 0	
		269 11 0
		309 1 0
		578 12 0

The whole amounting vnto Five hundred seventy eight pounds and Twelve shillings.

I doe by & with the advice and consent of her Maj<sup>ts</sup> council hereby order you to pay y<sup>e</sup> above sum of fие hundred seventy eight poundes & twelve shillings to Stephen Sewall Esq<sup>r</sup> who together with y<sup>e</sup> gentlemen of y<sup>e</sup> Comitte that Estimated and Reported y<sup>e</sup> said damages are desired & directed to distribute y<sup>e</sup> same in proportion as aboue to such of y<sup>e</sup> said persons as are Liuing and to those that legally represent them that are dead according as y<sup>e</sup> law directs and for which this shall be your Warrant.

Given under my hand at Boston the 17 Day of December  
1711 J Dudley

To M<sup>r</sup> Treasurer Taylor By order of y<sup>e</sup> Gouerno<sup>r</sup> & Council Jsa Addington Secrty.

Whereas His Excellency the Governor and Generall court haue been pleased to grant to y<sup>e</sup> persons who were sufferers in y<sup>e</sup> year 1692 some considerable alowance towards restitution with respect to what they suffered in their Estates at that Sorrowfull time and haue alsoe appointed a Comitte viz. John Appleton Esq<sup>r</sup> Thomas Noyes Esq<sup>r</sup> John Burrel Esq<sup>r</sup> Nehemiah Jewet Esq. & Stephen Sewall to distribute y<sup>e</sup> Same to and amongst y<sup>e</sup> parties concern'd as in & by y<sup>e</sup> records and Court orders May appear. Now Know yee that wee Sub-

scribers herevnto being Either y<sup>e</sup> proper parties or such as represent them or have full power & authority from them to Receiue their parts and shares of ye money afores<sup>d</sup> and such of vs as haue orders from some of y<sup>e</sup> parties concerned to receive their parts and shares doe avouch them to be real and good so that for whomsoever wee take vpon us to receive any such sum we doe oblige ourselves to Idemnify y<sup>e</sup> said Comitte to all Jntents constructions & purposes, wee say Recieved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February anno Domi 1711-12 & in y<sup>e</sup> Tenth year of

Abram How For Mary & Abigail How	4	14	0
Ephraim Roberdes for James Martha			
& Sarah How children of John How	4	14	0
Jsaac Estey 2 9 0 for selfe John Easty 2 9 0			
for Mary post			
Ephraim Wiles	14	0	0
Samuel Nurs for himselfe & John Nurse &			
John Tarbell Rebeccah Preston William Rus-			
sell Martha Bowden & francis Nurs	21	14	0
mark of			
Feb 23. 1711 William x Hobbs for			
his sister Abigail Hobbs	9	15	0
mark of			
Mary x Pittman alias How			
Rec <sup>d</sup> as afores <sup>d</sup>			
for George Abbott & Hannah his wife			
daughter of mary Easty	2	9	0
March 5: Rec <sup>d</sup> for myselfe forty nine shillings	2	9	0
Jacob esti.			
May 1. 1712. Rec <sup>d</sup> on behalf of my wife Deborah How			
Two pounds Seven Shilling in full.			
			Isaac Howe.
Sep <sup>r</sup> 3 <sup>d</sup> 1712. Received for my brother Joshua & myselfe			
4 18 0 which J ingage to produce his order for & send			
to S. Sewall.			Benjamin Estie
Sept 3 <sup>d</sup> . 1712. Rec <sup>d</sup> for my sister Sarah Gills forty nine			
shillings which J promise to send her receipt for			
			Beniamin Estie.
Rec <sup>d</sup> for Joseph Estie & and by his written order forty			
nine shillings Nou <sup>r</sup> 28, 1712.			John Commings.

Families Interested in ye allowance following.

Children of Elizabeth How viz. daughters Mary How, Deborah How wife of Jsa: How of Roxbury, Abigail How. Grandchildren James How, Martha How & Sarah How being y<sup>e</sup> children of her only son John How Dec<sup>d</sup>.

Mary Easty's family. Jsa Easty Joseph Easty John Easty Ben: Easty, Jacob Easty. Joshua Easty p<sup>d</sup> to Benj Sarah Gill daughter Hanah Abbot of Andover

Rebeccah Nurse family, John Nurse Sarah Bowden Rebecah Preston, Samuel Nurse, Francis Nurse, Mary Tarbel Elizabeth Russel.

Mr. Sewall & Hon<sup>rd</sup> friend

S<sup>r</sup> Respects J mised, you<sup>s</sup> J receiued of yo<sup>r</sup> son, bearing date y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> of this Jnstant mo<sup>th</sup> & according to yo<sup>r</sup> desire J haue drawne out y<sup>e</sup> names & Sums (of ye Respective Sufferers) y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> petition<sup>rs</sup> pray<sup>d</sup> for. 1<sup>st</sup> of those executed.

	£ s. d.
Elizabeth How; Mary Abigail her daughters pray <sup>d</sup> for	12 0 0

Sara Wild, Ephraim Wild her son pray <sup>d</sup> for	14 0 0
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Mary Easty. Jsaack Easty her hus- band pr <sup>d</sup> p	20 0 0
-------------------------------------------------------------	--------

Rebecca Nurse. Samuell Nurse her son pr <sup>d</sup> p	25 0 0
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Persons Condemned & not Executed

Abigail Hobs william Hobs her Fa- ther pr <sup>d</sup> p 10 <sup>lb</sup>	10 0 0
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

To y<sup>e</sup> Committey appointed by y<sup>e</sup> Generall Court to dis-  
tribute what was allow<sup>d</sup> by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Court towards restitution to  
y<sup>e</sup> relations of those whoe suffered in y<sup>e</sup> Sorrowfull times  
called y<sup>e</sup> Witchcraft times. pleas to pay and deliuer what  
share and proportion belongs to me on that score vnto my  
Brother m<sup>r</sup> Samuel Nurse of Salem & his receipt shall be a  
full and sufficient discharge from your friend &c.

Beniamin Nurse.

May 8<sup>th</sup> anno Dom 1712.

Whereas we are Jnformed the Generall court hath appoint-  
ed a Committe to distribute to the parties concearned what  
the s<sup>d</sup> Court hath alowed to make Reparation to the Suffer-

ers in the year 1692. Therefore wee doe desire and hereby Jmpour our Brother Samuel Nurse te receive what is alowed to us and to give receipt for the same

John Nurs	willem rusel
John Tarbell	martha bouden
Rebaka preston	francis nurs.

Whereas y<sup>e</sup> Gouernour & Generall Court have been Pleased to grant a considerable sum towards restitution to those who were Sufferers in ye yere 1692: & have appointed a Committee to distribute y<sup>e</sup> same amongst y<sup>e</sup> persons concerned.

Wherefore J ye subscriber (being then a Sufferer) doe request y<sup>e</sup> gentlemen of y<sup>e</sup> gentlemen of y<sup>e</sup> Committee to Deliver what Part and Proportion may belong to me unto my father William Hobbs, or my brother William Hobbs (both of Topsfield) and either of their receipts shall be your full discharge from your Servant.

the mark of  
Abigaill x Hobbs.

Andover feb y<sup>e</sup> 26: 1711-12 honoured Sir thes are to dezier you to deliuier to y<sup>e</sup> bearer hereof John Farnum the money y<sup>t</sup> falleth to my share of what the Cort alowed to the sufferers in 92.

J being the daughter of Goodwife Estey of topsfeeld and now wife to George Abbut in Andover.

George Abbut	Hannah abbut
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To the much honred mager sewall pray S<sup>r</sup> be pleased for to pay to the barer hearof John cummings my part of the money that the generall court did geve to the sufferers in the yeare 1692. and his recit shall bee your descharge

S<sup>r</sup> J understand that you have payd all of my brothers, and so J would pray you for to pay the barer heareof so J rast your friend and Saruent

Joseph Esti.

Know all whom it doth or may consarn that wee Mary and Abegill How both daughters of James How of Ipswich late deceast being informe that y<sup>e</sup> honored Generall Court hath a-Lowed som money for us in way of Restitution for y<sup>e</sup> dam-  
ing wee sustained in y<sup>e</sup> yere 92 by that as was called witch-

craft when our honoured mother was executed.

We pray your honours to send us y<sup>e</sup> money alowed us,  
by our vncle Abraham How whom we have desired and em-  
ployed to Receive y<sup>e</sup> same for us. dated in Jpswich 22 of  
January 1711 or 12 as witnes our hands

her mark  
Mary x How  
her  
Abigail x How  
mark

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### THE ISRAEL CLARKE ACCOUNT BOOK.

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COMMUNICATED BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

Israel Clarke was the son of Daniel and Damaris Clarke and was born in Topsfield, Sept. 28, 1701, in a house that formerly stood about where Bailey's shoe factory is now located. His father kept an inn and at his death he bequeathed to Israel, "ye Gun I used to Train with and my brass hilted sword." Israel also received 12 acres of land lying between what is now Main and Washington streets, the land then being known as "Berzillars." This land bounded partly on land already owned by Israel Clarke. He had married July 21, 1730, Mercy, daughter of Nathaniel and Eleanor Porter, and at the time of his father's death, had a family of seven children. He probably lived on or near the spot where now stands the Hood-Gould-Dow house, at the corner of Main and Prospect streets, and seems to have carried on a small business in selling molasses, oil, and earthenware, as is shown by an account book kept by him and now in the possession of Miss Marietta Clark of this town.

The following items taken from this volume are of much interest, and succeeding lists illustrate the current values of various articles in common use at the time.

"December 10th 1740 Then y<sup>e</sup> Reverent Mr. John Emerson Came to Dwell Down by the Meeting house and it was a very Raine Time and had bin for Sum Time before.

Israel Clarke"

"Thomas Goodhalls Rakes are 17 teen." In 1743, Clarke sold rakes at 3 shillings each—to Thomas Howlett, Jacob Perkins, Capt. Wilds, Aaron Este, Churnelus Balch, Nelson of Rowlee, Zebulon Willds, Ebinezer Curtis, and Abraham Hobs.

July 1745, Mr. John Baker, debtor for tending the masen 2 Days	£2-00-0
Nails and Laber Doon to the House	3-00-0
Money paid to Bachelor for the oven	2-10-0
Diging and Drawing Clay and Carting Brick*	1-10-0

"May 20th 1743 Received of Dan Clarke by the hand of his son Daniel Eight Black birds not feged and Cut of their Beeks.†

"May 22, 1743 Received of Thomas Perkins by the hand of his son 4 Black birds old and 1 Ground Squirrel.

"June 17, 1743 Received of Daniel Lake four Squierls Nine Black birds four not fleegd

"Received of Daniel Prichard five Black birds 4 of them not fledged

"July 15, 1743 Received of Henery Armson 16 Ground Squirels and Cut of there Ears

May 19, 1746. Then Israel went to his unckel Porters to live."

May 6, 1748. Joshua Town's account is credited, "weaving all woll Eel wide" £1-16-0

\*See Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. VIII. page 139.

†In 1741 the Massachusetts General Court passed an Act to prevent damage to Indian corn and other grain. The Act provided that whoever killed crows, blackbirds, water rats, grey or ground squirrels and should bring their heads to one of the selectmen of any town, should be paid four pence each for squirrels, six pence for crows, three shillings a dozen for grown blackbirds, and twelve pence a dozen for nestlings. The selectmen were directed to cut off the beaks of the birds and the ears of the squirrels. As Israel Clarke was a selectman of Topsfield in 1743 and 1744, this duty seems to have devolved upon him.

Oct. 25, 1742.	Joseph Osborn's* account is credited,	
"Earthern ware one Load,		£6-8-0
June 7, 1743.	ditto	8-5-0
Dec. 7, 1740.	Paid for Bread at Salum.	5-0
Jan. 22, 1741.	ditto	9-6
Jan. 14, 1741.	John Prichard's account is credited, weaving fiveteen yeards 3 quarters at 8 pence per yeard,"	6-10-6
"1744.	Robert Perkins has made forty five Barrels of Cy- der."	

The larger number of charges in Israel Clarke's account book are for molasses, "oyl," and earthen ware. The price of molasses, in 1738 was 7 shillings per gallon and remained so until 1743 when it rose to 9 shillings, 6 pence, and in 1746 to 15 shillings. "Oyl," which I judge probably was whale oil and was used for illuminating, cost 7 shillings a gallon in 1739, 8 shillings in 1741, 10 shillings in 1742, 11 shillings in 1743, 13 shillings in 1745, and 15 shillings in 1748, an increase more than likely due to the French and Indian war, and the events leading up to it.

In the cast iron "Betty lamps" hanging in the old fashioned fireplace, grease and blubber were burned and in 1743, Clarke sold 2 two quarts of the latter for 1 shilling and 6 pence, and in 1748 he sold for 10 shillings the barrel in which he received his oil. Ten years earlier cider barrels brought 7 shillings.

The considerable amounts of earthen ware that he disposed of were seldom itemized when the charge was made. Once a platter was mentioned costing one shilling, and several times milk pans appear, but the charge usually was "earthen ware," with the price.

Grain frequently was taken as "country pay" to discharge an indebtedness. Corn was worth 9 shillings and 6 pence per bushel in 1740, but had risen to £1-2-6 in 1746. Seed corn sold at 3 shillings a peck in 1743. Barley was 7 shillings a bushel in 1739 and 15 shillings in 1746. Oats brought 4 shillings and 3 pence in 1738 and rye was worth 10 shillings in 1740. The latter had a higher value as human food while

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\*He probably was a potter living in Salem, Middle Parish, now Peabody.

the oats could only be used for the live stock. Beans cost 10 shillings a peck in 1748, and turnips 4 shillings a bushel in 1740. Cheese was 10 pence a pound in 1738 and 3 shillings a pound in 1746, while butter sold at 3 shillings in 1741.

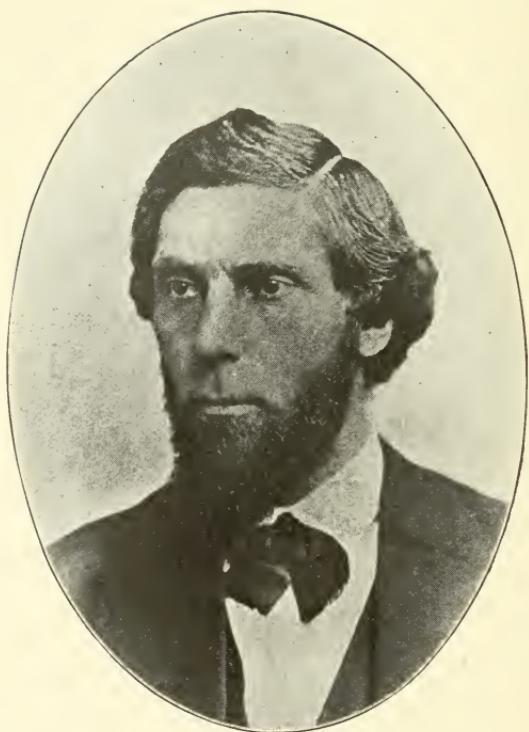
The tattered leaves of this old-time ledger disclose a miscellany of curious items. In 1746, two horseshoes cost 2 shilings and 6 pence. Four years earlier two baskets cost 8 shillings and 4 pence and the year previous four hens were sacrificed for 8 shillings. A load of wood sold for 18 shillings and 6 pence in 1739; a cow hide weighing 29 pounds brought £2-4-3 in 1748; veal cost 2 shillings a pound in 1746; and tallow sold at 1 shilling and 6 pence a pound in 1741. It is surprising to find that milk brought a shilling a quart in 1744. Cows could not have been numerous at that time. "Shouger" cost 2 shillings a pound in 1742 and the same year "rosum" brought 8 pence a pound. Clarke seems to have desired to keep his ledger free from ink blots for a credit appears in 1742 for an ounce of "june-pars," costing 6 pence. This was a powder made from the gum of the common juniper and was then in use as a pounce or powder to dry ink on the written page.

The following names appear in this account book:

Thomas Andrews (1742-4).	Doctor Dexter* (1743).
Robert Andrews (1739).	John Davis (1747).
David Balch (1739-49).	John Dodge (1741).
John Balch (1743).	Lieut. Joseph Dorman (1743-4).
John Baker (1743-63).	Jacob Dorman (1742).
Thomas Baker (1743-47).	John Ells (1743).
Gideon Bixby (1743).	Rev. John Emerson (1745-8).
Retier Bacon (1746).	Nat Fuller (1739).
John Bacheler (1739).	Samuel Fisk (1743).
Samuel Bradstreet (1744).	Thomas Galup (1743).
Mrs. Elizabeth Bradstreet (1744).	Solomon Gould (1739).
William Bradford (1739).	John Gould (1744).
Nathaniel Burnum (1739).	Eliezer Gould (1748).
Dan Clarke (1743).	Martha Howlett (1740).
widow Mary Clark (1743).	John Howlett (1742).
Sarah Cottery (1739).	Thomas Howlett (1744).
Joseph Comings (1742).	Samuel Howlett (1738).
Nathaniel Capen (1741-5).	Nathaniel Hood (1742-8).
Ebenezer Curtis (1742).	Abram Hobbs (1748).
widow Downiell (1742).	Benjamin Ireland (1739).

\*Four earthen milk pans "deld by Tito."





REV. GUSTAVUS DORMAN PIKE, D. D.

David Ireland (1742?).	Samuel Potter jr. (1739).
Joshua Jackson (1744?).	Samuel Phepeny (1743).
Ephraim Kimball (1739).	William Redington (1738-43).
Aaron Kimball (1739).	Jacob Robinson (1743).
Thomas Killum (1741).	Nathaniel Rogers (1739).
Ebenezer Killum (1739).	Deborah Rogers (1744).
John Lefavor (1745).	George Starte (1747).
Philip Neland, sen. (1743).	Joseph Stikne (1742).
Philip Neland, jr. (1740-3).	Sameul Stanley (1740-3).
Edward Neland (1739).	John Smith, of Salem (1744).
Joseph Osborn* (1738-42).	Samuel Smith (1739-43).
Jacob Perkins (1743).	Isaac Town (1741).
Nabe Perkins (1743).	Jabez Town (1744).
Robert Perkins (1755).	Joshua Town (1746-9).
John Perkins (1742).	Philip Town (1740).
David Perkins (1766).	Nathaniel Town (1739).
Jonathan Perkins (1743).	Joseph Town (1739).
John Prichard (1740).	Stephen Town (1744).
Thomas Perkins (1746).	Daniel Town (1741).
Joseph Peabody (1740-47).	Zebulon Wilds (1739-49).
Eliezer Porter (1739).	Jonathan Wilds (1742).

## REV. GUSTAVUS DORMAN PIKE, D. D.

Rev. Gustavus Dorman Pike, D. D. was born in Topsfield, August 6th, 1831, in the old two-story house, taken down in 1899, that stood about forty feet S. W. of the Mason-Rust house on Wenham Street. He was the son of a farmer, and spent his early life in work on his father's farm. Ambitious and eager for an education and possessed of an energy that overcame every obstacle, he fitted for college at the academy in Thetford, Vermont, which he entered in 1852, and graduated at Dartmouth in the class of 1858, and at Andover Theological Seminary in 1861. At the time of his death his former preceptor at Thetford Academy, Dr. Hiram Orcutt, in a published obituary notice, wrote as follows:

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\*Salem, Middle Precinct?

"His straightened circumstances nerved him to greater effort and made success more sure. From necessity he learned self reliance, industry and economy. His purpose was fixed and his will unyielding and onward and upward he pressed until his object was accomplished. Young Pike was not a brilliant recitation scholar, for obvious reasons, but manifested marked ability. His social qualities, his good nature and manly frankness gained for him confidence and respect and helped him over many hard places in his intercourse with the world. That he had mental power and was gaining a good degree of mental culture was demonstrated in his eminently successful life. A man of ordinary ability and little discipline never yet blundered into such success. Indeed success is the only sure test of ability in any sphere of life. College marks can never be relied upon to show the real standing of the man in the practical world.

In the Academy, Pike lost no opportunity for improvement. He studied when he could and labored and taught when he must. When a debate was in progress he was sure to be one of the disputants, seeming to understand how much practical ability is secured through practise in such exercise. He never knew when he was beaten and would always have the last word. No doubt he pursued a similar course at the College and Seminary."

He was ordained to the ministry at the Olive Street Congregational Church in Nashua, New Hampshire, on Apr. 23, 1862, where, as associate pastor of Rev. Austin Richards, D. D., he served the church for three years with such fidelity as to win the high regard of a membership that never ceased to love him. He was acting pastor of the Congregational Church at East Hampton, Connecticut, from 1865 to 1867. As a pastor he was greatly beloved. He was always a minister of reconciliation and peace. His preaching was eminently spiritual and in its intellectual qualities it was peculiarly attractive. As a pastor he was a man of unique personality and a most winning disposition.

He entered the service of the American Missionary Association in 1867, residing at Rochester, N. Y. Beginning as a field agent in western New York, his wise, rare gifts, speedily demonstrated his fitness for the responsible position

of district secretary, to which he was called in 1870, and filled for fourteen years, and from that period until his decease he gave to the Association work the well directed energies of his life. The marvellous success of the Jubilee Singers, whom he accompanied in 1872-4, through America, England and continental Europe, was largely due to his organizing power and untiring industry. The courts of royalty listened to the music of the slaves and their songs became well-known to millions of people. The Jubilee Hall of Fisk University lifts its beautiful proportions upon the heights of Nashville, Tennessee, as an enduring monument of the practical management, the skill and tact of Dr. Pike who raised a clear profit of \$70,000 of song money, from which he himself derived no pecuniary profit. He afterwards published two volumes on the History of the Jubilee Singers, which had a very wide circulation.

In 1874 he visited Egypt and Palestine and in 1881 assumed the editorship of the *American Missionary* and brought to that service a degree of variety and breadth that gave a new impulse to the usefulness of that magazine. This editorial service ceased only with his death.

As historian of the Jubilee Singers movement; as editor of the *American Missionary*; as a close student of the missionary problems of the Dark Continent, from which he saw the pall of barbarism lifting; as a successful organizer of the forces of righteousness in behalf of freedom and the uplifting of the despised races, he contributed largely to the success of the American Missionary Association. He travelled extensively in behalf of the Board and its missions, north and south and west, giving the strength of his life to the service of our Freedmen. His public work was characterized by shrewd common sense, and by marked executive ability. He was master of a sincere and fervid eloquence holding the attention of his audience to a rare degree. His faith was of the victorious order. He knew no such word as fail when once he believed that his methods of work for advancing God's kingdom had the divine approval. The degree of Doctor of Divinity he received from Drury College in 1880. He removed the headquarters of his department of service to Hartford, Conn., in April, 1884, but his health was even

then in a declining state and he died of consumption at Hartford, Jan. 29th, 1885, and was buried at Nashua, N. H.

On Aug. 3rd, 1861 he married Sarah Jane, daughter of Charles and Maria Hildreth Tuttle of Acton, Mass. She was born April 11, 1842. The following children were born to them:—

Jennie May, b. July 9, 1863; m. Nov. 25, 1886, I. Lewis Van Winkle. Had: Harold Elmer, b. Dec. 21, 1888; Clarence, d. in infancy; Jennie Gertrude, b. Dec. 25, 1893; Twins, b. Feb. 1895, d. in infancy. She d. Feb. 15, 1895.

Gertrude Dolly, b. Dec. 14, 1870; m. Oct. 10, 1904, Richard Charles Rendell, Had: Richard Gustavus, b. Oct. 28, 1906.

Arethusa Alice, b. July 3, 1876; m. June 12, 1905. Dean Edward Holt.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ZACCHEUS GOULD.

1790-1874.

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Died in Topsfield, July 5, 1874, Mr. Zaccheus Gould, aged 84 years, 5 months, 17 days. This event has thrown into deep affliction an extensive circle of children, grand-children, and great-grand-children, with other numerous connections more or less nearly related. His loss will be deeply felt in the community where he was so long a resident. He was universally respected. As an affectionate husband, judicious parent, kind neighbor, good citizen, and constant attendant on divine worship, he was a model for others to follow.

Mr. Gould was descended in the sixth generation from Zaccheus Gould, the earliest recorded settler of Topsfield, in 1643. Many of his ancestors have been distinguished for personal bravery, patriotism, virtue, and intelligence. He was the son of Zaccheus and Anne (Brown) Gould, born Jan. 19, 1790, the fifth of ten children. "Baptism, Feb. 28th,

1790: Zacheus, son to Zacheus Gould, Jr." He was then only forty days old. It is said that his parents hastened to present the first child for baptism by their young, new minister, the Rev. Asahel Huntington, ordained 22d November previous. In repeating the story, Mr. Gould used to say that he himself was so young at the time as not to recall the fact with certainty. However it may be as to Mr. Gould's baptism being the first administered by Mr. Huntington, it is certain that his marriage was the last solemnized by that clergyman previous to his own death, April 22, 1813. "Marriage Nov. 2d, 1812; Zacheus Gould, Jr., and Anne Hood, both of Topsfield." The sixtieth anniversary of this wedding was celebrated Nov. 2, 1872, when a large company of descendants, relatives and friends met at the old family mansion to congratulate the aged couple on the auspicious occasion. Mrs. Gould survives her husband. Six of the ten children by this union are also living.

No person is now living who joined the church under Mr. Huntington's ministry. Five persons joined in marriage by him still survive, each having lost a companion by death: Lydia (Gould) Todd, Mary (Averill) Gould, Benjamin Town, Hezekiah B. Perkins, Anna (Hood) Gould. The persons baptized by Mr. Huntington in the last century and now living are, Huldah (Gould) Perley and Dr. Humphrey Gould, an older sister and a younger brother of Mr. Gould; Rev. Jacob Hood, Richard Hood, Mary Hood, brothers and sister of Mrs. Gould; Daniel Boardman, Ira Porter, Nehemiah Cleveland, Aaron Conant, Nehemiah Perkins, Benjamin Town.

Mr. Gould retained his physical and mental vigor to near the last, and his accurate knowledge of the local history of the town was quite remarkable. He was accustomed to relate the following reminiscence of Mr. Huntington and his young bride coming to town, some seventeen months after his ordination. She was Althea Lord, of Pomfret, Conn. They came to Topsfield on horseback. It was known that they would spend the night before their arrival at the famous Bell Tavern, then in Danvers. Here they were met by a large delegation from Topsfield, also on horseback, the ladies in silks and the gentlemen in the best their wardrobes af-

fored. Mr. Gould remembers his mother's silk dress, so firm of texture as almost to stand if not to walk alone. Mrs. Huntington felt deeply mortified at meeting so finely dressed a company, since her husband wore his second best and somewhat seedy suit, while she had on a gown of her own spinning, weaving and fitting. The cavalcade galloped into town and up to the parsonage, a fine old mansion now occupied by Mr. Jacob Kinsman. Here the party formed in two ranks, on either side of the way, through which the bridal pair were to reach the door. Jacob Kimball, of musical fame, acting as voluntary master of ceremonies, assisted the bride to dismount, and was the first to salute her with a kiss of welcome and escort her to the well-furnished table within.

The minister and his accomplished wife were highly beloved and respected by their parishioners. The only known exception was the quaint Henry Bradstreet. He killed off his hens, and with an oath gave his reason. It will be borne in mind that Mr. and Mrs. H. were from Connecticut. Mr. Bradstreet took umbrage at his fowls, because, as he said, they fell so far into the Topsfield fashion as not even to lay an egg without the whole brood setting up the everlasting chorus, "Connecticut, cut, cut, cut, Connecticut."

*Salem Gazette, July 21, 1874.*

## JOHN FRENCH OF TOPSFIELD, MASS., AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

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BY CARRIE C. EDGEITT.

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**1. John French**, of Topsfield, a tailor by trade, was probably a son of Ensign Thomas French of Ipswich. There was also a John French in Ipswich, who had seven children born from 1659 to 1673, recorded in the County Court records, and there are two deeds from "John ffrench of Ipswich taylor and ffreedom his wife," dated in 1677. (Ipswich Deeds, 4: 99, 486.) The reasons for supposing that the Topsfield John was the son of Thomas are based upon the following data: Thomas French had a son Ephraim and Richard<sup>2</sup> (John<sup>1</sup>) had an uncle Ephraim French (See below [6]) Thomas had a daughter Mary Smith. Robert Smith of Boxford married a Mary French (Topsfield Historical Collections, vol. 8, p. 87). Samuel Smith of Boxford was administrator of the estate of his father, Robert Smith, in 1698, and John French of Topsfield was a surety on his bond. (Essex Probate Docket, 25,729.) Ensign Thomas French died August 8, 1680, and his widow died May 6, 1681. By his will, dated August 3, 1680, he left his real estate to sons Thomas and Samuel, and named also "Mary my beloved wife," sons John and Ephraim, and daughter Mary Smith. To his son John, he left "one Cow which is to make up the full summe of thirty pounds which I formerly promised him for his Portion." He provides that son Thomas is to "give full and free libertie to Mary my wife his mother, . . . and that after her decease my son Thomas shall deliver to my three children, John, Sam<sup>ll</sup> and Mary, three of the biggest pewter dishes which shall then be left and remain, that is to say, to each

of them, one."\* The inventory of his estate amounted to £217 : 15 : 6. (Essex Probate Docket, 10,191.)

John French was living in Topsfield as early as March 1, 1664/5, when a daughter was born. He is first mentioned in the town records on Dec. 31, 1667, when land was laid out to John How, "next John ffrench bordering Vpon the Common." From that time until 1697, his name is found frequently. He was chosen surveyor of highways, or fences, or both, seven times, tythingman, three times, on jury at Ipswich, three times, grand jurymen, three times, and commissioner on special errands to the "sheare Towne," twice. He was admitted "Comenar," March 7, 1675/6, and took the oath of allegiance and fidelity Dec. 18, 1678. He was assessed 8s. 6d. on county rate, Nov. 18, 1668, and £1. 1s. 11d. on "Rate for the minester" in 1681. He is called "Corpl." John French in 1691, '92 and '94, John french Clarke and Clarke french in 1696/7 and '97/8, the latter title probably meaning clerk of the military company. He built a one-story house about 1675, which before 1798 was raised to two stories and enlarged. This is still standing, and is known as the "French-Andrews" house, located on Howlett street, near the "Dry Bridge." (Topsfield Hist. Colls., vol. 8, p. 22; vol. 6, p. 47. He bought of John Wild, Jan. 8, 1672, "several parcells of land . . . conteineing thirtie acres" for £40. (Ipswich Deeds, 4 : 376.) On the same date he sold to William Perkins two acres for 42 shillings (Ipswich Deeds, 5 : 289), and again, May 19, 1685, he sold "one acre & Twenty Pole" for 31 shillings to William Perkins (Ipswich Deeds, 5 : 290).

A few years before his death he deeded his homestead to his son John, by the following instrument, dated Dec. 2, 1701.†

"Know all men by these presents that I John French of Topsfield In y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex In New Englan<sup>d</sup> Taylor for Divers good Causes me Thereunto moving Espec-

\*He also left a cow to Mary Smith, and ordered that the balance of Ephraim's portion be paid in money. This fits the supposition that John and Mary lived within a short distance, and Ephraim much farther away.

†This deed is dated more than six months after the mother's death, according to Topsfield records. It may have been prepared some time before it was executed, or there may be an error in one or the other dates.

ially for y<sup>e</sup> naturall affection I Bare to my son John French Jun<sup>r</sup> & for his Encouragem<sup>t</sup> and advancem<sup>t</sup> have given Granted . . . all y<sup>t</sup> part of my upland & meadow as hereafter mentioned with y<sup>e</sup> Bounds & housing all my upland & meadow y<sup>t</sup> I Bought of John Wild of Topsfield . . . provided he & his heirs perform y<sup>e</sup> Conditions hereafter mentioned viz y<sup>e</sup> said John French Jun<sup>r</sup> is to Improve all my Tillage Land and meadow Ground and orchard and to give his fathar John French one half of the Produce of what is Raised upon the Land meadow and orchard the said John French Sen<sup>r</sup> to pay all Taxes for the Land & what Cattle properly Belongs to him & his son John to pay for his Cattle During His father John French Naturall Life & at the Decease of his said father To pay all his Debts and funerall Charges and if his mother should survive & outLive his father then the said John is to take Care of his said mother & Provide for her & to keep for her one Cow four sheep and Provide meat for them Winter & summer & his said mother to have one Room in my Dwelling house with halfe the Cellar & half the Chamber of the said house and to Till one acre & half of Land yearly During his mother's Life & to give her y<sup>e</sup> produce of it and to Dress y<sup>e</sup> Land with Dung as there is occasion and to find her with firewood & to Cut it such a Length y<sup>t</sup> Be fit to Lay In y<sup>e</sup> Chimney and to find her Twelve Bushells of good apples one Barrell of Cydar & Two Bushells of malt which is yearly to be paid & to pay all Rates & Taxes During his said mothers Life & at her death to give her an honourable Buriall: A percell of meadow omitted four acres."

Signed

John French  
John French Jun<sup>r</sup>

(Essex Deeds, 15 : 257.)

John French's wife's name was Phebe. Although no record of their marriage has been found, she was without doubt Phebe, daughter of Robert and Sarah Keyes, born in Watertown, June 17, 1639. Robert Keyes removed to Newbury, and died there July 16, 1647. His widow married Sergeant John Gage of Ipswich, Nov. 7, 1658, and

died a widow July 7, 1680. (History of Newbury), or July 7, 1681, according to the settlement of her estate, which was "equally divided to the three daughters, viz: the wifes of Wm. Smith, John ffrench and Samuel Buswell" (Essex Probate Docket, 10,506). Sarah Keyes (born May 26, 1633), married Samuel Buswell, July 8, 1656 (Savage), and Rebecka Keas (born March 17, 1637/8, married William Smith, July 6, 1657. (Topsfield Rds.)

John French and his wife were both members of the church in Topsfield, in a list dated 1684. There are two entries of her death: "John French his wife drown<sup>d</sup> herself may 13, 1701." "Pheebe French dyed on ye 14<sup>th</sup> of may 1701." There is no record of his death, but it probably was between March 5, 1705/6 (the last mention of John French Jun<sup>r</sup> on town records), and Jan. 25, 1706/7 (date of daughter Mary's power of attorney, see below [2]). He died intestate, and his estate was settled by an agreement between the heirs, as follows:

"This Agreement made & Concluded upon this twenty fifth Day of August 1707 between John ffrench Adm<sup>r</sup> & John ffrench as Attorney to Mary Pearson Widow—Richard ffrench—Thomas Towne & Sarah his Wife Jn<sup>o</sup> Gould & Pheebe his Wife Martha ffrench Lydia ffrench David Shaplin & Hephsibah his Wife & Patience ffrench all Children of Mr Jn<sup>o</sup> ffrench Late of Topsfield in y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex in N England Dec<sup>d</sup> Intestate—with Respect to y<sup>e</sup> Estate of y<sup>e</sup> said Dec<sup>d</sup> which he Left undisposed of is as followeth

1. Wee Doe Agree yt our Brother John ffrench shall quietly & peaceably Enjoy all yt Estate of houseing & land given him by our said ffather by Deed of gift—and also one half Acre of Meadow Lyeing on y<sup>e</sup> norwardly fide of a Brook Called Mile Brook below y<sup>e</sup> Bridge . . . he being by Deed oblidged to pay all Debts.

2. Wee Do Agree yt our Brother Richard ffrench shall haveall y<sup>e</sup> Land upon y<sup>e</sup> plaine being about 40 acres—Excepting one Rod for a highWay to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> to his Meadow as aforesaid.

3. Wee y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> abovenamed Jn<sup>o</sup> ffrench in Right of Mary

—Thomas Town in Right of Sarah Jn<sup>o</sup> Gould in Right of Pheebe Martha ffrench Lydia ffrench David Shaplin in Right of Hephzibah & Patience ffrench haveing each of us Received y<sup>e</sup> sum of fifteen pounds in Moveable Estate which is y<sup>e</sup> whole of y<sup>e</sup> perfonal or moveable Estate of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup>—which we accept of In full of our Right Title Interest & Demand.”

The inventory of his estate contains “a certain p<sup>r</sup>fall of Upland & Meadow in y<sup>e</sup> plains” valued at £28, and personal property amounting to £56: 16: 00, including one Horfe, three cows, one heifer, one steer, one oxe, six sheep, one swine, pieces of cloth, box Iron goose, and the usual articles of furniture, clothing, etc. His eldest son John French was administrator and Richard French of Enfield and John Gould of Topsfield were sureties on his bond. (Essex Probate Docket, 10,156.)

The children of John and Pheebe French, from County Court records, with the exception of the first, were:—

2. MARY.
3. SARAH, b. March 1, 1664-5.
4. PHEBE, b. May 8, 1667.  
MARTHA, b. Aug. 9, 1669; living, unm., in 1707.
5. JOHN, b. Aug. 26, 1671.  
LIDIAH, b. May 17, 1674; living, unm., in 1707; prob. m. Nathaniel Averill, June 17, 1730, and d. May 31, 1746.
6. RICHARD, b. Aug. 18, 1676.
7. HEPHZIBAH, b. Feb. 2, 1678-9 (recorded as Phebea).
8. PATIENCE, b. Aug. 23, 1681.

**2. Mary French**, married, Nov. 11, 1684, Stephen, son of Deacon John and Dorcas Pearson, of Rowley. He died Jan. 5 (Town Rd.), Jan. 25 (Ch. Rd.), 1705/6. She died Sept. 27, 1730, “bed-rid many years” (Ch. Rd.). In the settlement of her father’s estate, she authorized her brother John to act in her behalf, and the power of attorney is on file at Salem, calling her “the widow mary parson of rowly in the county of aficks,” dated Jan. 25, 1706/7, and witnessed by Elizabeth and Martha Pearson, all three signing by marks.

## Children, born in Rowley :

ELIZABETH, b. Aug. 25, 1685; m. Aaron Pingry.  
 STEPHEN, b. June 9, 1687; m. Hannah Jewett.  
 MARTHA, b. July 6, 1689; m. Aquila Jewett.  
 MARY, b. Jan. 7, 1690-1; m. Peter Moers.  
 JONATHAN, b. Oct. 29, 1693; d. Dec. 11, 1693.  
 PATIENCE, b. July 26, 1697; m. Timothy Palmer.  
 HEPHZIBAH, b. Jan. 20, 1698-9; m. Nathl. Crosby.

**3. Sarah French**, born March 1, 1664/5, married March 17, 1684/5. Thomas<sup>3</sup> (Edmund<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>) Towne. He was born in Topsfield in 1655, and died in 1720 (Towne Genealogy). She is mentioned in her husband's will, dated Jan. 20, 1713.

## Children, born in Topsfield :

EDMOND, b. Jan. 28, 1685-6; d. unm., 1741, æt. 55.  
 EXPERIENCE, bp. June 24, 1688; d. Oct. 27, 1760.  
 THOMAS, bp. Oct. 18, 1691.  
 SARAH, b. May 8, 1694; d. Nov. 1, 1781.  
 EDNA, b. Dec. 23, 1696.  
 RICHARD, b. July 16, 1700; m. (1) Elizabeth Bixby; (2) Hannah Bixby.  
 MERCY, b. July 7, 1703; d. March 11, 1741; (called Mary, in Towne Genealogy, but birth record is Marcy, and father's will Mercy.)

**4. Phebe French**, born May 8, 1677, married Nov. 10, 1684, John<sup>3</sup> (John<sup>2</sup>, Zaccheus<sup>1</sup>) Gould. He was born in Topsfield, Dec. 1, 1662, and died Nov. 5, 1724. She died Apr. 25, 1718.

## Children, born in Topsfield :

PHEBE, b. July 7, 1685; m. Thomas Curtis.  
 JOHN, b. Aug. 25, 1687; m. (1) Hannah Curtis; (2) Phebe Towne.  
 MARY, bp. Nov. 3, 1689; m. Thomas Stanley.  
 NATHANIEL, bp. Oct. 25, 1691; m. Grace Hurd.  
 SARAH, b. Sept. 8, 1694; m. Thomas Butler.  
 HANNAH, b. June 19, 1697; m. Gideon Towne.  
 DANIEL, b. Nov. 8, 1699; m. (1) Lydia Averill; (2) Lucy (Tarbox) Perkins.  
 DAVID, b. Dec. 25, 1701; m. Abigail Dodge.  
 SOLOMON, b. March 19, 1703-4; m. (1) Elizabeth Robinson; (2) Rebecca (Foster) Bixby.  
 LYDIA, b. May 3, 1707; m. Samuel Standly.

**5. John French**, born in Topsfield, Aug. 26, 1671, called yeoman and planter in deeds, removed to Norwich, Connecticut, about 1718. The first mention of "John french iunr" on the Topsfield town records is found March 3, 1695/6, and from that date to 1709 he was chosen surveyor of highways, twice, fence viewer, twice, juryman, constable, and tythingman, once each. He received the homestead from his father by deed in 1701s and sold it for £400, June 16, 1718, to Joseph Andrewyn of Boxford, the deed conveying "about forty-sevee acres" (Essex Deeds, 32: 289). He exchanged som land with Ephraim Wildes, Dec. 29, 1710, receiving "one acre of meadow more or less," for "one acre & a halfe & halfe a quarter" (Essex Deeds, 25: 84 ; and 26: 155). He also bought three acres in Ipswich of Nathaniel Boarman, Jan. 4, 1715/16, for £15, 10s., and three acres in "Hafsockey Meadow," Topsfield, of Thomas Baker, March 19, 1717, for £15. The Ipswich land he sold June 19, 1718, to Jesse Dorman, for the same sum he paid for it (Essex Deeds, 28: 116 ; 33: 196 ; 34: 196). His wife's name was Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_. They were both members of the church at Topsfield, and Oct. 12, 1718, "were dismissed to y<sup>e</sup> Church in Norwich on y<sup>r</sup> removal thither." He was admitted an inhabitant of the town of Norwich in 1724, and died there April 20, 1730, leaving sons Abner, John, Joseph, and Samuel.

Children, born in Topsfield :

ELESABETH, b. Apr. 6, 1696; d., a widow, Feb. 6, 1729-30; m. Nov. 21, 1715, Thomas<sup>4</sup> (Thomas<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>) Perkins of Topsfield.

Children, born in Topsfield: (1) Robert, b. Nov. 19, 1717; (2)

Thomas, b. April 17, 1720.

JEMIMAH, b. Jan. 31, 1697-8; m. May 25, 1720,\* Samuel Crocker.

ABNER, b. Nov. 17, 1699; m. Nov. 6, 1723,\* Sarah Sluman.

KEZIA, b. July 6, 1702; m. Nov. 8, 1727,\* James Bill.

JOHN, b. Nov. 22, 1704; m. Aug. [21], 1729,\* Phebe [dau. of Thomas Hyde].

MARY, bp. Oct. 27, 1706.

JOSEPH, b. Aug. 10, 1709.

SAMUEL, b. Jan. 29, 1710-11; m. Nov. 4, 1734,\* Elizabeth White.

\*" Early Connecticut Marriages, Book 4."

**6. Richard French**, born in Topsfield, Aug. 18, 1676, called husbandman and yeoman in deeds, removed to Enfield, Connecticut, as early as 1699. He held no office in Topsfield, but his name occurs frequently on the Enfield records. He was chosen fence viewer, three times, surveyor of highways, three times, allower of town debts, twice, tythingman, four times, assessor, once, constable, once, and served on different committees a number of times. March 21, 1739, he was on a "Comtee to Dignify ye Seats in y<sup>e</sup> meeting house according to the rules following: i. e. they shall adjust age usefullness Qualification and offices with the Last three years Lists" (History of Enfield, vol. 1, p. 388). He was also an "Alower of Society debts, May 12, 1632" (Church Records, vol. 2). He was called Corporal, Dec. 15, 1730, and "Sargeant," March 10, 1734/5.

Some time after removing to Enfield, June 7, 1711, he sold to Ebenezer Averill of Topsfield a tract of upland in Topsfield, twenty acres more or less, "a good perfect and Absolute Estate of Inheritance in fee Simple," for £20 (Essex Deeds, 25 : 76).

On June 5, 1699, Ephraim French conveyed by deed of gift to his "cousin" (i. e. nephew), Richard French, "all my housings and lands at Enfield after my death... He to live with me and maintain me." (Hist. of Enfield, vol. 3, p. 1973.) Ephraim French, who had been in Enfield as early as 1687, died there in September, 1716. Under date of August 29, 1720, the records state that Richard French is "possessed of a parcel of upland that Came to him by right of his uncle Ephraim French." In 1731 he conveyed to John Meacham fifty acres "originally belonging to the Grant of my uncil Ephraim French decd.\*

Richard French's wife's name was Elizabeth ——, She was born about 1680, according to her gravestone inscription,— "Here lies the Body | of Mr<sup>s</sup> Elizabeth | French wife of Mr<sup>r</sup> Richard French | who Departed this life April the 30<sup>th</sup> | 1752 in y<sup>e</sup> 73<sup>d</sup> Year | of her age."

\*History of Enfield (vol. 1, p. 27), makes Richard French son of Ephraim, but this is surely incorrect.

His gravestone inscription reads as follows: "Here lies Inter'd | the Body of Mr | Richard French | he died March | y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1757 in y<sup>e</sup> | 82<sup>nd</sup> Year of his Age." His will, dated May 24, 1745, presented July 5, 1757, mentions his wife, not named, children: Elizabeth, Experience, Alice, Ephraim, Richard, and John, and makes the three sons executors.

Children, born in Enfield :

- AMEE, b. May 6, 1700; prob. d. before 1745; m. Nov. 8, 1722, Isaac Pease, jr. Children (1724-1740): Emy, Isaac, Phebe, Jacob, Abner, Anne, Noadiah, and Luraina.
- ELIZEBETH, b. Aug. 3, 1702; living in 1845; m. Nov. 22, 1722, John Warner.
- PHEBEE, b. Dec. 20, 1704; d. April 1, 1705-6.
- FEEBEE, b. March 16, 1706-7; d. March 13, 1706-7, *sic.*
- 9. EPHRAIM, b. May 15, 1708.
- EXPERIENCE, b. Aug. 3, 1710; d. March 4, 1791; m. March 3, 1736-7, Joshua Bush. Children (1737-1749): Joshua, Abiel, Eli, Experance, Hannah, Jonathan, and David.
- 10. RICHARD, b. Sept. 18, 1712.
- HEPZIBATH, b. Dec. 9, 1714; prob. d. before 1745.
- 11. JOHN, b. March 30, 1716.
- ALICE, b. April 30, 1720; d. Dec. 2, 1778; m. Sept. 21, 1743, Aaron Bush. Children (1744-1763): Alice, Aaron, Moses, Oliver, Elizabeth, Rufus, Sarah, Mary, and John.

**7. Hephzibah French**, born in Topsfield, Feb. 2, 1678/9, married, Nov. 13, 1704, David Shapley, or Shepley, of Marblehead. Her birth is given on the County Court records as Phebea, but the settlement of her father's estate places Hephzibah between Lydia and Patience. She was living in 1707.\*

Children, on Topsfield church records :

- DAVID, bp. Aug. 26, 1705.
- RICHARD, bp. April 6, 1707.

**8. Patience French**, born in Topsfield, Aug. 23, 1681, married in Enfield, Conn., Aug. 3, 1711, James, son of John and Elizabeth Ferman, or Fairman. He died in

\*A David Saplye of Marblehead died intestate, and his son Richard was made administrator of his estate Dec. 30, 1720. (Essex Probate Docket, 25,097.)

1721 ; his will, dated Feb. 10, 1720/1, presented May 16, 1721, mentions wife Patience, and four sons, James, the eldest, others not named. May 16, 1738, Richard Ferman, minor, over fourteen, heir of James Ferman, deceased, chose Richard French as his guardian. The widow Patience Ferman m., 2d, March 8, 1725/6, Ebenezer Spencer. He died before April 12, 1741, when land was laid out to the "Heirs of Ebenezer Spencer Late of Somers Dec<sup>d</sup>." She m., 3d, Oct. 25, 1749, Ephraim Colman of Coventry.

Children of James and Patience (French) Ferman, born in Enfield :

JAMES, b. May 7, 1713; m., Jan. 5, 1739-40, Johannah Stebbins of Springfield.

JOHN, b. March 31, 1715; removed to Wilbraham, Mass.

JOSEPH (twin), b. May 16, 1717; d. May 18, 1717.

BENJAMIN (twin), b. May 16, 1717; m. (1) Nov. 11, 1742, Hannah Maggrigry; (2), March 8, 1749-50, Abigail Bement. He enlisted as a soldier in the Havana Expedition (1762), and died there.

RICHARD, b. Sept. 21, 1719; removed to Newtown.

There is also the death of a Richard Ferman, son of James, not dated, among the Enfield deaths in 1718.

**9. Ephraim French**, born in Enfield, May 15, 1708, was on the lists of proprietors for drawing lots, Feb. 6, 1729, Feb. 4, 1734/5, and Nov. 6, 1745. He was chosen "hog Reve," March 10, 1739/40, and "Tything man," March 10, 1745/6.

He married (int. Sept. 9, 1744), Rebecca Pomry, "resident in Enfield."

Children, born in Enfield :

ABIGAIL, b. Aug. 25, 1745.

REBECCA, b. Nov. 24, 1746.

ELISABETH, b. May 20, 1748.

EPHRAIM, b. Jan. 18, 1749-50.

MANASSAH\*, b. July 1, 1751; m. Hannah ——. Had: Esther, b. Aug. 30, 1777.

HULDAH, b. Feb. 10, 1753.

MORIAH, b. Apr. 19, 1755.

\*A Menassah French served in the Revolution, in company commanded by Capt. Ellsworth, of East Windsor, enlisting July 6, 1775.

ISAAC, b. Jan. 28, 1757; d. in the Revolution. He served under Capt. Parsons of Enfield in 1776; re-enlisted Jan. 22, 1777, for a term of three years, and was taken prisoner July 2, 1777. (Conn. Soldiers in Rev.)

SILENCE, b. Aug. 27, 1758; d. in infancy.

SILENCE, b. July 2, 1760.

LYDIA, b. Feb. 23, 1762.

ASHER, b. Dec., 1764.

**10. Richard French**, was born in Enfield, Sept. 18, 1712. He was chosen "Colecster," Dec. 10, 1751 (vol. 1). This seems to be his only town office. He married, June 16, 1743, Miriam, daughter of Jonathan and Rachel (Kibbe) Bush. He served as private in the French and Indian War in 1758 and 1759, and died at Ticonderoga, Sept. 29, 1759.

Children, born in Enfield :

JOSEPH, b. Sept. 2, 1743.

LUCY, b. March 27, 1745.

MIRIAM, b. Apr. 15, 1747.

SUSANNAH, b. Jan. 28, 1750.

RICHARD, b. June 16, 1753.

CALVIN, b. June 6, 1755.

**11. John French**, was born in Enfield, March 30, 1716. He seems to have been a more prominent citizen of Enfield than either of his brothers. He was chosen "Hog Reive," once, fence viewer, once, constable, once, "Collector of Rates or Taxes," once, surveyor, three times, tythingman, once, and, in 1754, was on a "Comitte to take Care to see that the [school] houses be built . . . the house for the north End to be set against John frenches in the most Convenient place."

His wife was Rachel, daughter of Jonathan and Rachel (Kibbe) Bush, who was born May 30, 1722. The date of marriage is not recorded in Enfield. This marriage is proved by a deed, dated Jan. 6, 1749, from Jonathan, Joshua, Moses, Aaron, and Caleb Bush, Richard French Jun<sup>r</sup> and Miriam his wife, John French and Rachel his wife, Job Larkham and Mary his wife, and Elizabeth Bush, spinster. All of these except Miriam agree with

the names of the recorded children of Jonathan and Rachel Bush. John French also served in the French and Indian War, from May to September, 1758, when he was a sergeant.

He died April 15, 1775. His will, dated Feb. 27, 1759, presented Jan. 22, 1776, names wife Rachel, children Rachell, Eleanor, Azubah, John, and Levi, and makes wife Rachel and son John executors.

Children, born in Enfield :

12. JOHN, b. Dec. 10, 1739.  
RACHEL, b. Sept. 16, 1743.  
ELEANER, b. Sept. 21, 1748.  
AZUBAH, b. Jan. 13, 1750.  
LEVI, b. Dec. 16, 1754. Served in Revolution on Lexington Alarm list; private, 1776; corporal, 1780.\* (Conn. Soldiers in Revolution.)

**12. John French**, born in Enfield, Dec. 10, 1739, was chosen fence viewer in 1772, tythingman in 1777, and served on the " Schooll Committee " in 1779. His wife's name was Abigail.

Children, born in Enfield :

- CYNTHIA, b. Apr. 13, 1771.
- MARY, b. March 9, 1773.
- LUTHERSON, b. March 20, 1775.
- LEVI, b. Feb. 15, 1777.
- ANNA, b. Jan. 18, 1779.
- JOHN, b. Sept. 17, 1780.
- LEUDIAH (Ludier, Church Rd.), b. March 8, 1783 (son).

\*A description of him in 1780 gives trade, farmer; height, 5 ft. 10 in.; light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1907.

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### BIRTHS.

1907:

Feb. 15. Ruth Evelyn, dau. of Fred Maximillian and Cora Pearl (Kneeland) Williams.  
Feb. 28. James, son of James Francis and Mary Agnes (Sheehan) Creedon.  
Apr. 13. Mary, dau. of Morris John and Mary Anna (Bennett) Brown.  
Apr. 19. Arthur, son of Harold and Maud Annie (Leaper) Keywood.  
June 9. Mary Bridgett, dau. of John Joseph and Katherine (Donnelly) Goodwin.  
June 25. Hilda Adams, dau. of Warren Thaxter and Grace Adelaide (Frame) Tilton.  
Sept. 17. Alice Hood, dau. of Leone Parker and Mary Adeline (Smith) Welch.  
Oct. 12. Antonio, son of Paul and Lucy (LeCaporal) LaCassessa.  
Nov. 24. Hazel Rebecca, dau. of Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Pace) Hamilton.  
Nov. 30. Eunice May, dau. of Frederick Elliott and Mary Howard (Lowe) Pingree.  
Dec. 28. Evelyn, dau. of Thomas Henry and Annie (Richards) Batten.  
Dec. 29. Gladys Irene, dau. of Ira Roy and Callie Afton (Clarke) Andrews.

### MARRIAGES.

1907.

Jan. 16. { Elmer Roswell Abbott (Danvers), son of Roxbury H. and Mary L. (White) Abbott.  
          { Bertha Glasier Perkins (Topsfield), dau. of J. Fremont and Carrie E. (Glasier) Perkins.  
Jan. 29. { Leslie Leon Ingalls (Topsfield), son of Charles W. and Charlotte (Smith) Ingalls.  
          { Isabelle Pearl Smerage (Topsfield), dau. of Fred and Nellie (Chapman) Smerage.  
Jan. 30. { George Clinton Donaldson (Topsfield), son of Wellington and Elizabeth O. (Benton) Donaldson.  
          { Alice Balch Jordan (Topsfield), dau. of Charles F. and Annah (Balch) Jordan.  
Mar. 27. { Everett H. Carr (Topsfield), son of Richard and Susanna (White) Carr.  
          { Alice L. Harris (Cambridge), dau. of Sanders R. and Ann (Fitz) Cushing.

Mar.	31.	{ Elbridge H. Gilford, Jr. (Topsfield), son of Elbridge H. and Mary F. (Hay) Gilford. Nellie B. Walsh (Topsfield), dau. of William P. and Abbie A. (Bradstreet) Walsh.
Apr.	17.	{ Henry Hamilton (Topsfield), son of John and Susan (Chapman) Hamilton. Mary Elizabeth Pace (Topsfield), dau. of Albert W. and Ellen M. (Perkins) Pace.
Apr.	23.	{ John A. Morrison (Topsfield), son of John and Flora (McKeigan) Morrison. Katherine B. McDonald (Topsfield), dau. of William R. and Christie (McLane) McDonald,
June	5.	{ Eugene Marsh Dow (Topsfield), son of George Prince and Ada Bingham (Tappan) Dow. Daisy Louise Dow (Rowley), dau. of Leander Abner and Mary Ellen (Haven) Dow.
June	15.	{ Fred Pulsifer (Wenham), son of Edward B. and Mary C. (Shackelford) Pulsifer. Bertha May Morse (Topsfield), dau. of Austin A. and Laura E. (Foster) Morse.
June	16.	{ Samuel Conley (Topsfield), son of James H. and Eunice G. (Janes) Conley. Grace Tappan Dow (Topsfield), dau. of George Prince and Ada Bingham (Tappan) Dow.
June	16.	{ John Albert Elliott (Topsfield), son of James A. and Abbie P. (Lake) Elliott. Sarah Augusta Ingalls (Boxford), dau. of Charles W. and Charlotte A. (Smith) Ingalls.
June	19.	{ Edgar Fayette Powers (Dorchester), son of Edgar C. and Fannie N. (Damon) Powers. Sallie Mabel Perkins (Topsfield), dau. of Theron D. and Mary A. (Balch) Perkins.
Sept.	4.	{ Ira Roy Andrews (Topsfield), son of Joseph E. and Mary E. (Chapman) Andrews. Callie Afton Clarke (Topsfield), dau. of Charles H. and Addie (Andrews) Clarke.
Sept.	7.	{ Charles Robert Wait (Wakefield), son of Robert Pote and Maria Elizabeth (Temple) Wait. Anne Hathaway Edwards (Topsfield), dau. of Benjamin Punchard and Mary Eveline (Peirce) Edwards.
Sept.	10.	{ Arthur Ellis Thayer (Hartford), son of Edward F. and Nancy J. (Sherman) Thayer. Daisy Frances Barrett (Hartford), dau. of Henry and Josephine (Atchison) Barrett.
Sept.	22.	{ Allen Porter Gould (Topsfield), son of William Porter and Abbie J. (Cummings) Gould. Emma Blanche Chaff (Merrimac), dau. of Thomas H. and Mary E. (Grant) Chaff.

Oct. 17. { Frank O. Roberts (Topsfield), son of Nathan H. and Mary J. (Sykes) Roberts.  
           { Florence M. Gould (Topsfield), dau. of John and Mary A. (Hutchinson) Gould.

Oct. 21. { William G. Pray (Topsfield), son of Ruel B. and Caroline E. (Galloupe) Pray.  
           { Lillie A. Hutchins (Danvers), dau. of Charles F. and Abbie E. (Crowell) Kenney.

## DEATHS.

1907.

Jan. 17. Ella A., wife of Fred Smerage and dau. of Amos and Eliza (Perkins) Chapman, aged 57 yrs.

Mar. 19. Eliza Mary, wife of Charles Perkins and dau. of Ephraim and Lydia (Potter) Averill, aged 72 yrs., 9 mos., 13 dys.

Mar. 20. Annie E., dau. of Benjamin P. and Louisa L. (Strangman) Hobson, aged 42 yrs., 4 mos., 2 dys.

June 1. Ralph Louis, adopted son of B. F. Knowles, aged 25 yrs. 16 dys.

June 1. Sophronia (Cole), wife of Ephraim Perkins, aged 76 yrs., 8 mos., 26 dys.

June 27. Sarah J., widow of Charles H. Towne and dau. of John and Sarah (Phillips) Smith, aged 62 yrs., 10 mos., 10 dys.

Sept. 28. Mary Ann, widow of John Gould and dau. of William H. and Lucy (Berry) Hutchinson, aged 74 yrs., 5 mos., 22 dys.

Nov. 23. Martha Ellen, wife of Abijah Berkley Richardson and dau. of Jeremiah and Mary (Wilkins) Peabody, aged 69 yrs., 11 mos., 5 dys.

Nov. 25. Florence May, wife of Frank Orin Roberts and dau. of John and Mary Ann (Hutchinson) Gould, aged 43 yrs., 6 mos., 5 dys.

Dec. 2. Adeliza Minerva, widow of John Fiske and dau. of Benjamin and Hulda (Dorman) Pike, aged 65 yrs., 8 mos., 5 dys.

Dec. 6. Perthena Calista, wife of Salmon Dutton Hood and dau. of John W. and Eleanor (Jenness) Pearson, aged 74 yrs., 10 mos., 8 dys.

Dec. 10. Mary Jane, widow of Nathan H. Roberts and dau. of Artemus and Sallie (Richards) Sykes, aged 75 yrs., 9 mos., 25 dys.

Dec. 28. Lewis Humphrey Wildes, son of Humphrey and Olive Brown (Perkins) Wildes, aged 65 yrs., 5 mos., 18 dys.

## Deaths in other places, Interment in Topsfield.

1906.

Dec. 31. Dorothy Edith Ray, died in Groveland, Mass., aged 1 mo. 2 dys.

1907.

Jan. 3. Benj. F. Deland, died in Rowley, Mass., aged 70 yrs., 4 mos., 20 dys.

Jan. 13. Phoebe Ann Munday, died in Somerville, Mass., aged 76 yrs., 4 mos., 14 dys.

Jan. 21. Lucy E. Gunnison, died in Salem, Mass., aged 76 yrs.

Mar. 5. Francis Edwin Hadley, died in Malden, Mass., aged 77 yrs., 3 mos., 2 dys.

Mar. 17. Jennie H. Galloway, died in Saugus, Mass., aged 51 yrs., 20 dys.

Apr. 19. Helen M. Towne, died in Lynn, Mass., aged 77 yrs., 2 mos.

May 23. Malcolm McLoud, died in Boston, Mass., aged 52 yrs., 10 mos., 16 dys.

May 30. Richard I. Peabody, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 1 yr., 5 mos., 25 dys.

Aug. 19. Elizabeth Strangman, died in Newburyport, Mass., aged 85 yrs.

Sept. 6. Sarah F. N. Webster, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 76 yrs.

Oct. 15. Annie P. Hutchings, died in Boston, Mass., aged 44 yrs.

Nov. 4. Eugene Wildes, died in Wenham, Mass., aged 6 yrs.

Dec. 2. Warren P. Banks, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 11 yrs., 1 mo.

Dec. 9. Roswell W. Abbott, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 4 mos., 2 dys.

#### CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1907.

1907.

February. New pipe organ made by Hutchings of Boston, installed in the Congregational Church, replacing the Stevens pipe organ purchased in 1857.

April. Rev. John G. Benson of Eaton, Ohio, appointed pastor of the Methodist Church.

May 7. Miss Sarah S. Edwards of Haverhill, bequeaths \$500.00 to the Town Library and \$500.00 to the Congregational Church.

June 1. Edric D. Brooks of South Montville, Me., principal of the Topsfield High School since September, 1906, confessed forgery and committed suicide.

Sept. 2. Barn and outbuildings on South Main St., owned by Mrs. Ephraim Peabody, destroyed by fire shortly after midnight.

#### BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1907.

Gilbert B. Balch, Main St.; garage, the Clark-Cummings dwelling-house remodelled.

Edward Lake, River St.; dwelling-house remodelled.

John S. Lawrence, Ipswich St.; dwelling-house, grist mill remodelled, two Perkins houses taken down, barn on Robinson farm, East St., remodelled.

I. M. Woodbury, Pond St.; ice house.

Howard Ford, Pine St.; dwelling-house.

Frank L. Smith, River St.; the Benj. Fuller house remodelled.

Joachim Stark, Washington St.; large hen house.

David Pingree, Salem St.; the Moses Bradstreet house remodelled.

Thomas E. Proctor, Perkins St.; garage, hen house, boiler house, three green houses.

George H. Shattuck, Wenham St.; dwelling-house, the Rust barn remodelled.

Frank W. Ward, Washington St.; the Moses Wildes house remodelled.

James L. Ward, Washington St., the James Conley house remodelled.

Mrs. Anna A. Clerk, South Main St.; dove-cote, house remodelled.







